

**Sunday 1 February 2026**

*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*

**First Reading - Micah 6.6-8**

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

What shall I bring,

as an offering, to the Lord,  
as I bow down

before God most high?

Shall I bring burnt-offerings,

calves a year old,  
thousands of rams,  
rivers of oil,

or even my firstborn,

the fruit of my body,  
for the transgressions of my soul?

No, for the offering

the Lord requires of us  
is this:

to do justice,

to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly  
with our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1.21-27**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The wisdom of the world

did not

lead people to God.

Instead,

God has used

not the wisdom of the world,  
but the foolishness  
of our proclamation

to save

those who believe.

Greeks

demand wisdom,

and Hebrews

demand miraculous signs,

but we proclaim

Christ crucified.

The proclamation

of Christ crucified

is foolishness

to Greeks,

and a stumbling-block

to Hebrews.

But to those who are called -

both Hebrew and Greek -

the proclamation of Christ crucified

is both the wisdom of God,

and the power of God.

For God's foolishness

is wiser

than human wisdom;

just as God's weakness

is stronger

than human strength.

When you were called,  
not many of you were wise  
by human standards;  
not many were powerful,  
or of noble birth.

But God chose  
what is foolish in the world  
to shame the wise.

God chose  
what is weak in the world  
to shame the strong.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - Matthew 5.1-12**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw  
the great crowds  
that followed him,  
he went up on the mountainside,  
and sat down.

His disciples gathered around him,  
and he began to teach them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor, in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the humble, meek, and gentle,  
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst  
for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called  
children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted  
for righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you  
when people insult you,  
and persecute you,  
and condemn you, falsely, on my account,  
for in the same way,  
they persecuted  
the prophets of old.

Rejoice, and be glad,  
for your reward  
is great in heaven.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.