

Weekly Bulletin

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish

St. Michael's Church, 58 Orwell Street, Blacktown & St. Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR C

16 FEBRUARY 2025

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Mary Queen of the Family (MQOF) parish strives to grow as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, continuing to deepen in understanding the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church and to live as a faithful and committed Catholic community, evangelising and responding to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond.

LITURGY TIMES

Sunday Masses

7.00am Sun (St Patrick's) 8.00am Sun (St Michael's) 9.30am Sun (St Michael's) 10.00am Sun (St Patrick's) 11.00am 4th Sun - Filo Mass (St Michael's) 2:00pm - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's)

5.30pm Sat Vigil (St Patrick's)

5.30pm Sun (St Patrick's) 6.00pm Sun (St Michael's)

Weekday Masses

St Michael's: 8am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 7.30pm Wed only

1.00pm - Syro-Malabar Mass (St Michael's)

St Patrick's: 9am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat and 7.30pm Fri only.

RECONCILIATION

St Michael's: Wed 6:30pm-7:20pm St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm-7:20pm & Sat 9:30am-10:30am

HOLY HOUR

St Michael's: Wed 6:30pm-7:30pm St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm-7:30pm

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals & Anointing of the Sick by appointment.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world." I Corinthians 15:: 12, 16-20

"Blessed are you who are poor...but woe to you who are rich." Luke 6: 17, 20-26

Today's readings can be a little puzzling, so may require both explanation and time for reflection. Why, I wonder, did Paul confront his community with the fact that God had raised Jesus from the dead? Well, it seems that some early Christians had doubts about the resurrection of Jesus. Moreover, if they were able to accept that God had raised Jesus, some were unable to grasp that Jesus' resurrection meant resurrection for them (and for us, too.) In today's second reading from Corinthians, Paul offers a straightforward explanation of Jesus' resurrection. It goes like this: Jesus died on the Cross, and Jesus was raised by God. We, too, die and we, too, will be raised. Jesus was dead and buried, and now he's not. We are going to die, but that's not the end of everything. The foundational message of Christianity is that Jesus died and was raised by God and that the same future awaits us. Paul's words in this second reading echo Jeremiah's blunt statement in the first reading: "I will condemn those who put their trust only in the strength of mortals" (Jeremiah 17: 5)

I would like to share a few lines written by a priest by the name of George McCauley more than forty years ago. His words explain the significance of Jesus' resurrection and how Jesus' resurrection is indispensably connected to us. He wrote: "Jesus' resurrection was not simply a statement about the power of God at work....When God raised Jesus from the dead, it was to show what God thought of the human life Jesus had lived. All Jesus' striving, all his quiet reflection, his speaking engagements, his explosive encounters, his personal struggle to do something worthwhile and valuable in his life, his shyness in notoriety, his stiffening determination at the very end - on all this God placed a final YES. God undid Jesus' undoing foisted on him by those who hated or feared a life of love...The resurrection is a statement that God was moved to applause by the human drama of Jesus...God's yes was also a bravo. That's the kind of God who raised Jesus from the dead. The same God, by a marvellous condescension, has thought to extend applause to our human dramas, by raising us together with Jesus." (George McCauley, The Unfinished Image, Sadlier, New York, 1982, pp 248-249)

We would have to agree that those words beat a polished headstone engraved with compliments, in a lawn-cemetery. Today's gospel-reading is equally challenging. In order to grasp its significance, we need to note that, woven throughout Luke's Gospel is a theme of God's unwavering compassion and love for the poor, the dispossessed, the overlooked, captives and the despised, even for one who had a hand in creating the unenviable circumstances into which he had slipped. Luke's list of beatitudes and woes is his way of stating that Jesus was pointing out that the poor, the neglected and the deprived were better placed to understand the new world order God had missioned him to usher in.

Parish Directory

St. Michael's Church - 58 Orwell Street, South Blacktown & St. Patrick's Church - 51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown.

Parish Office: At St. Patrick's Church. Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm Telephone: 02 9622 1125 A/H: 02 8705 0830.

Website: www.mqofblacktown.org.au Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Fr. Wim Hoekstra.

Assistant Priests: Fr. Ever Bernaldez, MSP & Fr. Andrew Rooney

Deacon: Rev. John Cinya.

Finance Officer: Sarah Canete-Damole Email: accounts@mgofblacktown.org.au

Parish Assistant: Jill Franco (Tue to Fri) Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Gerald "Ged" Oblea. (Mon to Wed) Mobile: 0422 724 008

Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au Catechist Coordinator: Sandra Baker

Parish Pastoral Council: Chair: Cecil Fernandes: Asst Chair: Joshua Carr Secretary: Savita Surendra

Members: Beato Pudadera, Christe Degollacion, Ekhlas Ambili, Erica Luiz, Helena Vea, Harlane Petersen, Sidney Lazum, Fr. Wim Hoekstra, Fr. Andrew Rooney, Fr. Ever Bernaldez, Rev. John Cinya.

Parish Schools:

St Michael's Primary:

P: 8869 6200 https://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

St Patrick's Primary: : 8869 6000

https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Nagle College:

P:8887 4500 https://www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Patrician Brothers College:

P: 8811 0300 https://www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au

Catholic Early Learning Centre (St Michael's):
P: 8814 8406 https://www.celcblacktownsth.catholic.edu.au

Aged Care Facilities:
Opal Nursing Home (37 Kildare Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 9852 9600

Mullauna Retirement Village (61 Bungarribee Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P: 8822 2100

The woes which Jesus listed serve to illustrate how well-to-do people can get so preoccupied with their own good fortune that they cannot even notice the poor and the dispossessed beside whom they live. Such people will not even notice the kingdom of God, the new way of living, let alone notice the poor and all those other people who are regarded as second-rate.

Perhaps this is best illustrated by a parable from the Orient, recounted by writer Jay Cormier: A bird of prey was scouring a frozen landscape for food. On a large ice floe in the river, the bird spotted the remains of a deer left behind by hunters. It quickly swooped down and began to gorge itself. It was so preoccupied with eating the prize it had found that it ignored the sound of water thundering in the distance. In next to no time, the ice floe had reached the edge of a large waterfall and was about to topple over. The bird flapped its wings hurriedly in order to escape but its claws had been frozen into the icy remains of the deer. It was trapped, powerless to break free.

We can be so consumed by the marks of success held up to us by the world in which we live that we end up losing ourselves as we chase after them.

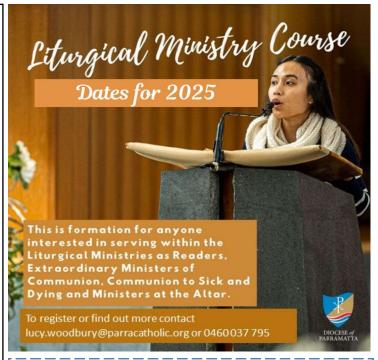
We are only up to chapter 6 in Luke's Gospel and God's predilection for the poor has been mentioned at least three times. Mary, in her Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55) proclaimed: "God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty." In spelling out the mission God had entrusted to him, Jesus has stated: "The Spirit of the Lord...has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free" (Luke 4: 18-19).In chapters still to come, Jesus will tell the story of the poor Lazarus who sat hungry at the door of the rich man, Dives who didn't even notice him (Luke 16: 19-31) Luke also spells out the message of Jesus special concern for the poor, the rejected and sinners in his parables of the widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18: 1-8), the prodigal son (Luke 15: 11-32) and the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37). Moreover, Luke tells how Jesus urged the wealthy people of his time to make sure they invited to their banquets the crippled and lame, the blind and the poor. While all these illustrations highlight the theme of God's love and compassion for the poor of every description in Luke's Gospel, the message for all of us who live comparatively comfortable lives is to be found in the third beatitude of today's gospel-reading: "Happy are you who weep now". Luke's point is that it is only when we notice the pain of the poor, the neglected, the despised and the overlooked, and learn to weep for them in their suffering will we learn how to be truly compassionate, will we begin to reach out to them in compassion, care and love.

That leads me to ask myself if I have ever wept for the people of Gaza, Libya, the Sudan, the Congo and Ukraine on whom destruction and brutality have been visited by their brothers and sisters from other nations and from within their own nations. Jesus himself wept over Jerusalem and its people, over his fellow citizens who eventually murdered him. Might we ask him to teach us compassion?

© Br Julian McDonald cfc

SAFEGUARDING FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING **OPPORTUNITIES: 22 FEBRUARY**

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 22 February at Holy Family Emerton for Cycle 1 (Module 1-3). More training opportunities will be available throughout February and May. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: https://parracatholic.org/ connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org



MQOF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

We encourage you to continue to support and donate non perishable items for Mary's Pantry. These are some suggestions: Cereal, Pasta, Instant Noodles, Rice, Biscuits, Milk, Tinned Soup, Tinned Fruit, Tinned, Fish,

Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Meat, Tinned Chickpeas, Tinned Lentils, Pasta Sauce, Baked Beans, Your donations will go to help those who are doing it tough in our community and beyond. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you also for continuing to support the MQOF Social Justice Group 10 cents bottle collection.

Please come and join us for a cuppa and a chat at Mary's Café. We are open every Wednesday after the 9am Mass in the Cardinal Clancy Room.





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- 2. In the Parish search field—type "2148" to find our Parish name; Select "Mary Queen of the Family" and press "Next";
- I 4. Enter your Name and your Email address to register a new account and press "Sign Up";
- 5. Download the FORMED app on your phone and "Sign In" using vour email address in step 4:
- <u>l</u> 6. Browse, Watch, Lister, Read, and Study—to form your catholic conscience.

SIXTH SUNDAY IIN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 30:3-4
Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-8

A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in

the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 1:1-4. R. PS 39:5

R ~ Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 *If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17. 20-26

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

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A little boy was listening to a long and excessively boring sermon in church. Suddenly his eye the red sanctuary lamp caught his eye.

Tugging his father's sleeve, he said, "Daddy, when the light turns green can we go?"

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Illuminada Lavilla (Fr Regie's mother)
John Woodward, Eduardo Canete, Carmela Saliba, Rex Scott,
Amelia Rodriguez, Robert Rodriquez, Jess and Patricia Calvo,
Narciso Ignacio

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Victoria Caruana, Elsie Lobo, Stella Buttigieg, Mary Aquilina, Nina Gatt

SICK

Joe Borg

Please pray for those who are sick..

Mass intentions can be requested online by visiting the website.

https://www.mgofblacktown.org/mass-intention-or-offering-request

OUR LITURGY THIS WEEK

Sat 22 Feb—The Chair of St. Peter, apostle

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Ash Wednesday masses on the 5th of March are as follows:

8am - St. Michael's 9am - St. Patrick's 12pm - St. Patrick's 7.30pm - St. Michael's



A man was brought to Mercy Hospital, and went in for coronary surgery. The operation went well, and as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was reassured by a Sister of Mercy waiting by his bed.

"Mr. Smith, you're going to be just fine," the nun said while patting his hand. "We do have to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?"

"No, I'm not," the man whispered hoarsely.
"Can you pay in cash?"

"I'm afraid I can't, Sister."

"Do you have any close relatives, then?"

"Just my sister in New Mexico, but she's a spinster nun.", said the man.

"Nuns are not spinsters, Mr. Smith," the nun replied. "They are married to God."

The man said with a smile, "Okay, then bill my brother-in-law."

THE SACRAMENTS / MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to members who are unable to participate because of illness or aging. For more information and to arrange receiving of the sacraments, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or after office hours number 02 8705 0830.



PARISH GROUPS

www.holyfamilyfellowship.com

Church.

Church.

Contact: Charles Hyson, 0412 631 602,

Meeting Time and Venue: Saturday 14 December 6:30pm-9:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's

Meeting Time and Venue: Monday 17th February, 10:00

Contact: Antoinette Mangion, 0414 735 943

am at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church

Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533 (for statue

Meeting Time and Venue: Every Thursday,

HOLY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUP

OOEDWITE OOEDWITE

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS



LEGION OF MARY ST MICHAEL'S



LEGION OF MARY ST PATRICK'S



Contact: Doris Zammit, 0419 274 002(for statue bookings)
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, 6:30pm at
Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

Meeting Time and Venue: Monday 9:30am-10:30am at

1:00pm – 2:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS



MQOF SOCIAL
JUSTICE GROUP

Contact: Frank Mangion, 0410 830 877

Meeting Time and Venue: 9th February 2025,
12pm - 2pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's
Church.

All are welcome!

Contact: Sandra Baker

Contact: Parish Office

admin@mgofblacktown.org.au

Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533

Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.



Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566

Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday & Friday after the 8am Mass, at St Michael's church.

CATECHIST MINISTRY



TEHILLAH COMMUNITY



Contact: Ash & Rozario Fernando , 0416 861 976 or 0412 195 916

Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday

For More Information please contact our the parish

Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday (during school term only), 2pm - 4pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St Patrick's Church.

TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYER GROUP

Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 3.00pm at Sid Mosley Centre St Michael's Church

YOUTH MINISTRY



admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
For More Information please contact our Youth Minister
through the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF INITIATION



Parents wishing to have their children baptised are to contact the parish office prior to attending a Baptism workshop.

The next workshop will on Saturday 1st March 2025 @ 2pm - St. Patrick's Church.

For more information please logon to our website: https://mgofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/#baptism

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2025

The sacramental program dates and online registration forms for 2025 are now available on our parish website.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Candidates aged 7 or 8 who have been baptised (Catholic) are invited to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance and the celebration of the First Confession.

This will be celebrated in November.

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

Candidates aged 8 or 9 who have received the Sacrament of Penance are invited to be prepared for the Sacrament of the Eucharist and to receive First Holy Communion.

This will be celebrated in June.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Candidates aged 10 or 11 who have received the Sacrament of First Eucharist are invited to prepare for the reception of Confirmation.

This will be celebrated in August.

Note—you can register for any Sacrament at this time.

Follow the link below for more information and to register for the process.

https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/ or you can collect a registration form from the parish office.

If you have any further questions, contact our sacramental coordinator on the details below:

Gerald "Ged" Oblea –Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au
Ph: 02 9622 1125 press option 3 or Mobile: 0422 724 008



Join us every Wednesday from 10:00am until 12:00pm at Sid Moseley St. Michael's Church and every Friday from 10:00am till 12:00pm at Cardinal Clancy room at St. Patrick's Church, for our Arts and Crafts activities will include: Embroidery and Embellishment, Crocheting, Knitting, Arts and Crafts (Painting) & Sewing.

Please, note all sessions are free. Materials for the lessons is provided or bring your own materials. Refreshments are provided.

For any inquiries please contact: Noemi Romero on 0475 798 770.



CHURCH MAINTENANCE & FINANCE UPDATE

We are still waiting for approval from the Diocese to spend the money on the roof project at St Patrick's, as I've said, I'm afraid we can't do anything until the approval is given.

For your information, the Parish Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 18th February at 7pm in the parish offices.

All donations to the parish, using the various TAP'N'GO machines around the Churches will now go to meet the development and maintenance needs of the parish which will of course, include repayments to the Diocese for our loan.

To assist our parish needs, can you consider donating regularly online, either via EFT, credit/debit cards or even envelopes. This will help us plan for the future of Mary Queen of the Family Parish.

Thank you for your continued generosity - Fr WIm

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT AT MOUNT SCHOENSTATT: 21-23 FEBRUARY

Join us at Mount Schoenstatt for a reflective retreat inspired by 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

The retreat runs from 7pm on Friday 21 February to 4pm on Sunday 23 February. Costs are \$240 per person for a shared room, \$290 per person for a single room (limited availability), or \$60 per person per day for day attendance. Accommodation and meals are included, or lunch for day attendees. Register by 12 February by contacting Sr M Elizabeth Foley 02 4773 8338 or via bookings@schoenstatt.org.au

Where are you?

We need you!!!!!

If you are being called to serve at any of our 7 masses on the weekends as a

- **Altar Server**
- · Lector or Reader
- Welcome minister or
- **Minister of Communion**
- Acolvte or
- Any other ministry



SCAN ME

Then please scan this QR code to register your interest in serving the parish.

Training will be provided, remember as St Paul said you are vital part of the body of Christ in our MQOF parish.

We need YOU! Thank you !!

Volunteering with the Cancer Council, **Blacktown Hospital**

Volunteer at the Blacktown Cancer Centre Information Service where you will help provide social support and information to visitors. A rewarding role helping direct cancer patients, caters and their families to appropriate cancer information and services. Requirements is one 4-hour shift weekly and attending a one day training session in Parramatta in early April. For more information, contact Natalia on 02 9354 2009 or email her at natalia.arnas@nswcc.org.au.

LIFTED Launch: 27 February

Join us for LIFTED Launch on Thursday, February 27th, from 6:45 PM to 9:30 PM at West HQ, Rooty Hill! Get a sneak peek at exciting events we have planned for young Catholics, including the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage and Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Enjoy a night of prayer, formation, and fun with fellow young Catholics.

Register now: parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

You can also support the parish by using our Tap & Go Machine. The machine amount is variable, please use the screen to donate the amount you wish to give. It also accepts Apple Pay, Google Pay and Pay Wave. All contributions go to the maintenance and development of the Parish as does the second collection at weekend Masses.

Planned Giving (Direct Debit or Credit Card) is also an option if you wish to do cashless

donation to the parish, forms are available in the foyer and on our parish website or contact the parish office on 9622 1125.

Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is guick and easy. Just go to: www.mgofblacktown.org.au/donations. You can also send your offerings/donations thru bank transfer: FIRST COLLECTION: For the Diocesan Clergy

Account Name: Diocesan Clergy

BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 0000 4265 Bank: CBA

Reference: 6004 - Donor's Name SECOND COLLECTION: For the Parish

Account Name: Blacktown Catholic Church

BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 0000 0677 Bank: CBA

Reference: 6004 ~ Donor's name

If you encounter any issues signing up, please email Sarah at accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au. Thank you so much for your continued support to our parish. We are grateful!

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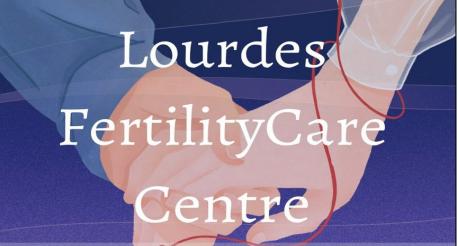
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St Patrick's Primary Blacktown

Is your child ready to start Kindy?
Call now for a School Tour!
02 8869 6000
Enrolment Packs Available Now!

Please call the school office to organize your enrolment pack or download an enrolment form from our school website. https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/

Or During weekdays on 8869 6000 between 8:30am and 3:30pm



St Mi

St Michael's Primary School Blacktown South

155 Reservoir Road Blacktown South https://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/





Enrolling now for 2025

Contact the school office on 8869 6200 or download an enrolment pack from our website.



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

our sunday in ordinary rime,	1001 0	
Fill in the missing words for ea	ach of Jesus' teachings using the pictures as clues. Dr	aw Jesus preaching.
	God will bless you people who are $___$	
	His will belong to you.	
	God will bless you	people.
	You will have	to eat.
	God will bless you people who are	200
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	! You will!	

Jesus told his disciples that even though people may be mean to you, as a follower of Christ you will have a great reward in heaven. What do you think your rewards in heaven will be?

word we use that describes heaven.		
HAPPY		
WEAK >		
FULL		
ASLEEP		
HEAVY >		
LITTLE >		
OPEN		
Heaven is God's		

Find the opposites of the following words, then use the circled letters to make a