

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel
16:1, 6-7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' (...cont'd overleaf)



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4th Sunday of Lent – Year A **21st /22nd March, 2020**

*God our Creator,
show forth Your mighty works
in the midst of your people.
Enlighten Your Church,
that we may know Your Son
as the true light of the world
and through our worship
may see with the eyes of faith.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD

There's a very old saying that has its roots in the Bible but is not a direct quote from the Bible: 'There are none so blind as those who will not see.' It would be a fitting summary of today's passage for there are two movements between darkness and light that are evident in the Gospel today. The story of the man born blind is a perfect choice for the Lenten season. During this season we are invited once again to open our eyes to Jesus; to step out of darkness and into the light; to look towards the future with hope and not despair. When we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at the Easter vigil, we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World into our lives. This annual call to turn away from darkness and walk in the light is a powerful and poetic call to focus our lives on the way of Jesus. © Greg Sunter

LINKS FOR ON-LINE MASS:

You are dispensed from your Sunday obligation from this time. we encourage you to participate in other ways such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion ,or you can try participating in a Mass online - go to:
<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

SCRIPTURE READINGS for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) head to:
<http://www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass.htm> Navigate using the right-hand column

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wed 25th March: The Annunciation of the Lord

*I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)*

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
 Email: Thomas.Kuruvila@cam.org.au

DEACON:

Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
 Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
 Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE:

9758 1029
 Monday 9.45am – 3.45pm
 Tuesday to Friday 9.00am -3.00pm
 Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne
 & Maree Wilson

Accountant: Sara Luk
 Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

SCHOOLS:

St John the Baptist 9758 1013
 Principal: Catherine Mason

St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
 Principal: Catherine Livingston

Mater Christi College 9754 6611
 Principal: Mary Fitz-Gerald

MASS TIMES:

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
 Tuesday 7.00 pm
 Wednesday & Thursday 9.15 am
 Friday 11.00 am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5.15 pm

BAPTISMS:

Baptisms are by appointment only and will be restricted to Individual baptism, with Parents and Godparents only in attendance until further notice. Contact the Parish Office on: 9758 1029 or via email at: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

WEDDINGS:

By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

4th Sunday of Lent – Year A**21st / 22nd March, 2020****PRAYING FOR...****All who have died recently**

Fr Peter James Robinson OAM, Carmella Nardone.

And those who we remember at this time:

Pasquale Lotrionte (6mths); Damiano Coviello, Margherita Coviello, Jilda Coviello, Cosimo Coviello, Luigi Coviello, Angelo Zarro, Federico Zarro, Silvia Zarro, Thomas Schepisi, Troy Chapman, Janina James; Joseph Lee Boon Leong & Theresa Teng Kiw Tau.

The sick: Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson Anne Jayawardena, Wilma Neville, Lea Hartley, Cosimo Petracca, Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina Zarro, Lesina Maio, Catherine Turner, Patricia Quinn, David Merton, Michael Byrne, Mary Edmunds, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Allida Serafin, Barbara Kenny, Clive Geach.

NEW GUIDELINES SICK LIST –names will remain on the sick list for 6weeks, then removed, unless notification to continue is received at the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

KEEP IN TOUCH: We would love to be able to keep in contact with you during these unprecedented times. Please let us know your current email address, and phone number by contacting the Parish Office by email office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or phone 9758 1029

WEEKDAY ROSARY Suspended until further notice

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER Suspended until further notice.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: Suspended until further notice

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS is Suspended until further notice.

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE tour has been cancelled. Please visit the college website for updates and information: materchristi.edu.au

EMMAUS COLLEGE OPEN DAY has been cancelled. For information updates please visit the college website at: www.emmaus.vic.edu.au.

**CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE FOR PARISHES.**

Prayerful greetings to the people of God across Victoria, On Wednesday 18th March 2020, the Prime Minister announced that non-essential indoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people, and outdoor events of more than 500people will be disallowed. Given the seriousness of COVID-19, we support this measure as being responsible and sensible, and we encourage everyone to follow public safety guidelines respectfully.

The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions:

- **Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.**
- **All other gatherings are suspended.** For clarification or any concerns, please contact your local diocesan authority.

We are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants), it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation. Deferring these liturgies may also be an option that is offered to families.

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to participate in other ways such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online via the websites at: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Please keep in regular contact with your family, neighbours and members of your parish communities as best you can.

We encourage our priests to continue to celebrate Mass (privately) for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis. We assure our people that the Mass is being offered for you in our parishes and that while you are not physically present, you still participate spiritually and that you are close to the hearts of your pastors in the Eucharist. We urge the clergy to make themselves available to visit individuals, especially those who are unwell and vulnerable. This includes viaticum and all the opportunities for healing through the Anointing of the sick and Reconciliation.

Again, we encourage you to regularly consult your local websites for further details of local arrangements.

All of this is happening during the Season of Lent, a time of preparation for the Easter mysteries. While we are invited to be self-sacrificial at this time, we must remember the words of Jesus upon appearing before his

disciples after his resurrection : Again and again he said 'peace be with you .' (John 20:19) Let us not panic, nor be anxious, not reduce ourselves to caring only for ourselves. This is a time to be sensible, practical, prayerful, and to share Christ's peace with those who are struggling to feel calm and safe.

Thank you for all your patience, prayers and resilience

Signed:

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne

Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird Bishop of Ballarat.

Most Rev Shane Mackinlay Bishop of Sandhurst.

Most Rev Patrick Michael O'Regan Bishop of Sale.

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Gospel Continued...

His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord.