

Fourth Sunday of Lent

22nd March 2020



*Readings for
this week:*

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



*Readings for
next Sunday:*

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45



Liturgical Jottings

Gospel Sequence

Each of the three cycles for the Gospels of the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent have their own themes: Year A; Baptismal instruction, Year B on the Death and Resurrection of Christ and Year C: repentance. Year A we read about the Samaritan at the well where Jesus taught about the life giving water; this week about the blind man washing his eyes in the pool, Jesus proclaims: "I am the light of the world." And next week the Raising of Lazarus to life when Jesus said: "I am the Resurrection": all instructing us on baptism.

Quote for the Week

We can believe what we choose.
We are answerable for what we
choose to believe.

- St John Henry Newman

Looking at the Readings

Lenten readings are renowned for their length. Today we have a good example in the long passage about the cure of the man born blind. The Lectionary offers a shorter version, but it would be more beneficial to choose the longer version. John the Evangelist took great care in writing this passage, we should take great care in reading it. We may reread it a few times because we will discover that it is not just a report of a miracle but a discourse on the coming to faith. We may also read it at different levels and progress with the blind man in understanding the real purpose of the miracle.

On the first level it is an account of giving sight to a man born blind. Restoring sight to one who has lost it is one thing, but to give sight to one who has never had it is quite a different matter, we hear that it was never done before. The account is rather brief, four verse of 41 verses.

On another level are the reactions of bystanders who see the wonderful works of God, the Pharisees, and the "investigators" who question everything: the cure itself, the man and his parents and Jesus himself.

On the deeper level there is the movement from ignorance to knowledge, from darkness to light and from sin to wholeness. For the reader enters the narrative for he/she must answer the question on where they stand in their faith and may recognise Christ as "The Light of the World" (v5).

Pope Francis Message for Lent 2020

It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God's mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a "face to face" relationship with the crucified and risen Lord "who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God's love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. (#2)

On the Lighter Side

While other nations mock Australians for their recent buying frenzy, Reasonably minded Australians are also baffled by their friends' behaviour as illustrated here:



"I'd never been embarrassed to be related to anyone until today when I found out my brother is one of the Australians panic buying toilet paper."

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Dear Parishioners

My thoughts and prayers are with you all as together we face the unknown at the moment with the seriousness of COVID-19. As you may have already heard, the Bishops of Victoria have this week advised of the immediate suspension of public liturgies and celebrations of the Mass until further notice, and the suspension of all other gatherings.

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online:

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

I will continue to privately celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of all our parishioners, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis. While you will not physically be present, you can still participate spiritually and know that you are close to my heart in the Eucharist.

Our Sunday bulletin will still be produced and will be available on our website (www.sacredheartparishtatura.com.au) and via a link on Facebook. To advise of names for intentions (sick, recently deceased or anniversaries) please call Mary on 0484 332 397. For all other enquiries please call the Parish Office on 5824 1049.

The Bishop will be celebrating Sunday Mass privately in Bendigo and this will be live-streamed via the diocesan website: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au. On this Sunday (22nd March) the livestream will be at 10.00am; this time may change in other weeks and we will advise you of this through our Parish website.


Our Church will be open for private prayer between 9.00am and 4.00pm. Please ensure that if others are in the church that you take appropriate precautions such as distancing yourself from others.

Our parish relies on the generosity of each and every one of you. I hope and pray that during this uncertain time you will continue to support our parish. If you currently give by cash donations (either direct on the plate or via planned giving envelopes), please consider organising a direct debit via your bank account or credit card. To do this contact Mary on her number above and she can help you. Or alternatively you could mail a cheque to us at PO Box 110, Tatura 3616.

With the difficulties that we all are facing at this time, I urge you not to become anxious or to panic, but remain sensible, practical, prayerful, and to share Christ's peace with those who are struggling to feel calm and safe.

Yours in Christ

Fr John Paul

	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Carmel Meda
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	
	Our sick and their carers	Cecilia Bannan

EVENTS CANCELLED

A number of events have recently been advertised in our bulletin. All have been cancelled, including:

- Sacred Heart Parish School Fete, Tatura (planned for Friday 20th March)
- Understanding the Word of God in the Catholic Tradition, Bendigo (planned for Saturday 21st March). *Note - Video of talks will be available next week at www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au.*
- Catholic Charismatic Renewal Sandhurst Renewal Day, Shepparton (planned for Saturday 21st March)
- The Pilgrimage of St Therese and her parents, Tatura (planned for 2nd & 3rd April)
- Palm Sunday walk and gathering in Bendigo (planned for Sunday 5th April)

SACRAMENTS AND LITURGIES (other than the Eucharist)

Fr John Paul will still be available for:

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment only using the first rite (individual confession), with observance of required physical distance.
- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals may be celebrated with a carefully limited congregation, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants).
- The Last Rites, as long as appropriate precautions are followed.

Quote

No matter how stressed you are, remember how blessed you are. - *Unknown*

www.dailyinspirationalquotes.in

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
22nd March 2020

 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA

Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. Until now Sakun, an indigenous Gond woman, has been isolated in her community, unable to earn a livelihood and without knowledge of government schemes that could help her. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. Through their strategic guidance and support, Sakun now earns her own income and makes a small profit which goes towards her family's basic needs. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can still donate at this time by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.