

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

19 March 2023



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

#### First Readings in Lent

The first readings from the Hebrew scriptures on the Sunday of Lent this year give us the formative stories of God's people: Creation of humankind, the call of Abraham, Moses and the Israelites trials in the desert, the anointing of King David, Ezekiel's prophecy on a new spirit bestowed on the people. They relate to significant stages in the history of salvation. These readings prepare us for the great salvific event of the death and resurrection of Christ.

#### Quote for the Week

Lenten fasts make me feel better, stronger, and more active than ever.

*St Catherine of Genoa 1447-1510*

#### Text for the Week

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - Ephesians 5:14*

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### Looking at the Readings

The first reading gives one of three accounts of the election and appointment of David, son of Jesse, as King of Israel. Born in Bethlehem and renown as a warrior, a sinner and penitent, and a mighty ruler administering wisdom, mercy and compassion that he had received from the Lord. Jesus is identified as a new David, a new but different King bringing forth the kingdom of forgiveness and peace to all creation.

The long Gospel passage today occupies an important place in John's Gospel and in our Lenten liturgy. Christ's healing of the blind man is extraordinary in every way. No-one has ever healed a person who was blind from birth. The healed man received ridicule, his parents were cross-examined, Jesus was denigrated as a sinner, and the authorities were in disarray. The disciples and the crowd had lots of questions. This passage is selected for its baptismal reference to light and conversion. We hear the affirmation from Christ: "I am the light of the world." and the healed person's profession of faith: "Lord, I believe."

### Prayer for the Week

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 confess him as Christ and Lord. Amen.


### Pope Francis Message for Lent 2023

I would like to propose two "paths" The first has to do with the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: "Listen to him" (*Mt 17:5*). ... Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. He speaks to us first, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears. Let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially those in need.

### On the Lighter Side

A man walks into a church, and finds the priest. He pulls out a gun and says, "Give me everything you have." The priest searches his pockets, the collection plates and sacristy. He doesn't find any money but only a bag of lollies, which he holds out and says, "I'm sorry. This is all I have!" The robber replies, "But Father, I gave up lollies for Lent!"



	<b>Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving</b>	
	<b>For those whose anniversary occurs at this time</b>	Carmela Lagozzino, Igenasio & Marisela Narivao
	<b>Our sick and their carers</b>	Teresa Muto, Vito Prinzi, Lesley Kennedy

DAY, TIME, DATE	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	GIFT PRESENTATION	SPECIAL MINISTERS	SCREEN OPERATOR/ORGAN
Sun 10:30 am 26 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>CHILDREN'S MASS</b>					
Sat 6:00 pm 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Carol Coulston	Peter Crombie	Joan Webster	Joyce Caifa Delphi Hamilton	Not Required	Mary Gale
Sun 10:30 am 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Rob Miller	Ann Maire Nihill	Bernie Maher	Barry & Jan Lowe	Steve De Lai	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett

### Two Week Mass Timetable Commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March

#### Weekday Mass

Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> March	No Mass
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	9:15 am Anointing Mass
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	No Mass
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> March	9:15 am Mass

#### Weekend Mass

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Sun 27=6 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30 am Mass

#### Weekday Mass

Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> March	9:15 am Mass
Thu 30 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> March	9:15 am Mass

#### Weekend Mass

Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> April	6:00 pm Mass
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10:30 am Mass

### Easter Time-table

Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> March	5:45 pm – Private Reconciliation 6:00 pm – Parish Reconciliation 6:30 pm – Parish Gathering
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> April	6:00 pm – Palm Sunday Mass
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10:30 pm – Palm Sunday Mass
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> April	TBC – Chrism Mass Bendigo
Thu 6 <sup>th</sup> April	6:00 pm – Holy Thursday Mass
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> April	9:00 am – Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm – Passion Mass
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> April	6:00 pm – Easter Vigil Mass
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> April	10:30 am – Easter Sunday Mass
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> April	10:30 am – Divine Mercy

### Easter Roster

If you are available over the Easter Period to help during our services please fill in the sheet in the narthex so that we can create a roster

### Chrism Mass – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

All parishioners are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like to attend please let Trish or Mary know, also if you require a lift or you could take someone to Bendigo please let Trish or Mary know.

### Working Bee – Sat 25 March

To help the parish get ready for Easter we will be having a Working Bee on Saturday 25 March starting at 10am. Many hands make light work if you can come along please do so.

We need to clean up around St Mary's Hall, clean the statues and clean the concrete – please bring some tools along with you. Please let Trish or Mary know if you can make.

### Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of year. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice

## Themes for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A

<https://young-catholics.com>

The readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent Year A are about sight and blindness. The first reading is the story of the choosing of David as God's anointed one. Samuel is told that God does not see us as we do. The second reading is a reminder that we must live in the light, not in darkness. And in the gospel is the story of the man born blind, whom Jesus cured.

- Light and darkness
- How we see ourselves, others, and God
- Spiritual blindness

## More Thoughts for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A

Jesus uses saliva and dirt to heal the man, very ordinary things. By healing the blind man with a simple gesture, Jesus shows his divine power and authority over creation. The use of spit and dirt, which were considered unclean in Jewish culture, further emphasizes Jesus' ability to transform and sanctify all things.

Some scholars suggest that the use of water and mud in this healing story may symbolize baptism. In early Christianity, baptism was seen as a symbolic washing away of sin and a new birth into a life of faith. Just as the blind man's eyes were opened, so too is baptism seen as a spiritual awakening and renewal.

The story of the man born blind is also significant in terms of theological debates around sin and suffering. In Jewish culture, it was believed that physical disabilities were the result of sin, either of the individual or their parents. However, Jesus challenges this view by stating that the man's blindness was not caused by sin, but rather was an opportunity for God's power to be displayed.

## Reflection Questions for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A

- How does Jesus use for healing what is ordinary or even undesirable in my life?
- How do people react when I tell others about Jesus? Does this embolden me or make me cautious?
- In what ways am I spiritually blind?

## Parish Gathering – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30 pm

Fr John, is inviting all Parishioners and your families to join him in sharing in a meal after the Parish Reconciliation on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30 pm in St Mary's Hall.

We ask that you all bring a casserole or similar to share. Even if you can't make the Parish Reconciliation, please still come to the Parish Gather for fellowship and good food. Please let Trish or Mary know if you can attend.

## Parish Reconciliation

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
6:00 pm

## Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in Bendigo & Shepparton 2023:

A Unit of CPE, which is supervised training for Pastoral & Spiritual Care, will be available in both Bendigo & Shepparton in second semester (July-November) 2023. For further information, contact Dan Murphy at [dan.murphy1949@gmail.com](mailto:dan.murphy1949@gmail.com) or on 0408 841 997. You will need to request an application form before 30th April 2023. Please see flyer available from your Parish office.

## Columban Interfaith e-bulletin and World Pray Day:

The first Columban Interfaith e-bulletin for 2023 has just been released. The bulletin can be read here <https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/newsletters-and-bulletins/interfaith-ebulletin/>

The ongoing interfaith dialogue work of the Columbans is highlighted and it's highly recommended that all Catholics note the challenge in the first article "Enlarge the space of your tent".

## Cuppa After Mass

Please join us for a cuppa after the Children's Mass next Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, in St Mary's Hall please bring a plate to share.

Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura.

PO Box 110 Tatura VIC 3616, 03 5824 1049, e: [tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)  
The presbytery office is open on Wednesdays & Fridays from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm