

Fourth Sunday of Lent

15 March 2026



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 Lenten Prefaces II

This Year, the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays in Lent the Gospels and the Prefaces are linked. Today the Gospel tells on the encounter of Jesus with the Man Born Blind and the Pharisees. The dramatic event happened at the Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem. The Preface, unlike the ones of last week and next week does not mention the main character, the man born blind but focusses on the effects of the miracle and the themes of Baptism. The people in the account and we at the Eucharist move from blindness (darkness) to new sight (light of faith), from sin (slavery) to freedom from sin (regeneration). The Preface refers to the symbols of water and light that express life and faith for us. Also, the reference to the Incarnation of Christ recalls our own human and divine nature as the adopted children of God.

Looking at the Readings

The Gospels of the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent and especially the proclamation of Christ's Passion and Death on Palm Sunday are long readings. The Passion is formatted into four voices: narrator, Christ, the dialogue of a single person and the dialogue of several persons or the crowd. I have seen this technic used for these other Gospels to assist the listener to better receive and be more engaged with it.

Noting the length of the passages, each Sunday a shorter form is given in the lectionary. However, these shorter texts lessen our experience of the power of the story and some important features for example the opening words of Jesus:

"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."

It expresses Jesus' mission and identity and his words: **"I am the light of the world"** is one of the Gospel's great **"I Am"** exclamations.

As one of the seven signs in the Gospel of John, the author wrote this passage with great care with a short account of the miracle but long accounts of the reactions of the authorities and the people, and of the discourses on the meaning and consequences of the sign. Likewise, we should listen with great care and take the opportunity to read and reread the passage.

Unlike the readings during the Season of Ordinary Time and Feast days the first readings during Lent and Easter do not relate to the Gospel. The Lenten first readings present glimpses of the great moments in the history of salvation from creation (Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7 first Sunday) to Abraham, Moses, Samuel and David (today) to the prophet Ezekiel (fifth Sunday) who prepares the people minds towards rising from the dead.

Quote for 17 February

I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain. *Saint Patrick*

A Lenten Blessing

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

On the Lighter Side

Before Mass the altar server asked the priest if he will use the longer Gospel. He said: "Yes". "That's good!" The server replied, "Because the shorter version leaves out the important line: 'I am the light of the world'."



 Please email or contact the office to add names to the prayer list	For those who have died and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	
	Our sick and their carers	Joe Basile, Harney McKinnon, Rita Fairchild

ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday 22nd March 10:30am

Commentator: Anne Maree Nihill
Reader: John Keane
Gospel Procession: Leo McGrath
Gifts: C Serra & J Caiafa
Eucharistic Minister: Danny Reyes
Screen Operator: Mary Gale
Music Operator: Debbie Worm
Money Counters: E Worm & M Gale

Sunday 29th March 10:30am

Commentator: Domelina Phelan
Reader: Dean Filgate
Gospel Procession: Anne Hutchison
Gifts: D Corrigan & P Moroney
Eucharistic Minister: Debbie Worm
Screen Operator: Lou Worm
Music Operator: Trish Warnett
Money Counters: L & D Worm

Saturday Mass times for 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month

6:00pm (Oct – Mar) 5:00pm (Apr-Sep)

We thank all of our volunteers for their assistance during Mass.

Volunteers are needed for Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Easter. Please add your name to the sheets if you are able to help.

Two Week Mass Timetable Week Commencing 18th March

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 18th March 9:15am
Friday 20th March 9:15am

Weekend Mass

Sunday 22nd March 10:30am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 25th March 9:15am
Friday 27th March 9:15am

Weekend Mass

Sunday 29th March 10:30am

Monthly events

Anointing Mass every 1st Wednesday Mass at 9:15am

Italian Rosary every 2nd Friday at 2pm in the Church

Reconciliation every 1st Saturday of the month (30 minutes before Mass)

Saturday evening Masses: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

4th Sunday of the month: Shared lunch in St Mary's Hall

Next Shared lunch Sunday 22nd March (next week)

Ladies Cuppa & Chat

1st Wednesday of each month at 2pm in St Mary's Hall. All welcome.



The next one will be Wednesday 3rd April.

Each Friday during Lent there will be the Stations of the Cross following Mass at 9:15am.

Please remember that from Easter the Saturday Mass time is 6:00pm

Plate Collection and Envelopes

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the parish.

May God bless you always.

Last week: \$ 721.00



GLUTEN FREE HOSTS: Please see the Trish or Fr Uday. For further queries contact the parish office.

NAMES ON PRAYER LIST: Please contact the office or by email to add names on the prayer list.

Next Baptism Preparation

Meeting: Wednesday 3rd June at 5:30pm in the Church.



Donation QR Code



One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.

John 9:25

**Project Compassion
Theme for 2026
Unite Against Poverty**

Please use this QR Code to
donate through the Tatura
Parish



Let us pray for all who lack the necessities of life, especially food security, that support for Project Compassion this Lent will enable Caritas to become a source of hope for them and for all those who hunger and thirst.

This week we hear about
MANAINI from FIJI
in the 4th Week of Lent video at Mass.

STATEMENT OF REFLECTION

Each year since 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has issued a statement for reflection and discussion on Social Justice Sunday in August on a key issue in society. This year, the bishops have chosen to release two statements, the first in February, titled The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good. Read the Statement at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2026/01/29/the-cost-of-our-living-economic-and-social-justice-for-the-common-good/>

ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

Presented by the Central Victorian Irish Association.
Tuesday 17 March | 7.30pm. Bendigo Southeast College Theatre, Ellis Street, Flora Hill. The evening opens with an excerpt from the sacred oratorio Saint Patrick at Tara. Tickets: Adults \$20 | Concession \$18 | Children (16 & under) \$5. Book via TryBooking (Event ID: 1541256). Limited tickets may be available at the door from 7 pm (cash preferred).

Seeing with New Eyes

The 4th Sunday of Lent Year A brings us stories about seeing in a new way. God helps us look beyond what is on the outside. These readings remind us that God sees people differently than we do. He looks deeper and knows what really matters.

In the first reading, David is chosen to be king, even though he is the youngest and smallest. Everyone thought his older brothers would be picked. But God shows that he sees things others miss. The Gospel also tells about seeing - Jesus heals a man born blind. This healing helps him believe in Jesus.

In John's Gospel, faith grows as people encounter Jesus. The once-blind man sees clearly, while others remain stuck in doubt. This chapter shows how faith is not just about sight but about being open to God's work

The 4th Sunday of Lent Year A invites us to reflect on seeing with the eyes of faith. The readings show how God looks at the heart, brings light to darkness, and heals spiritual blindness.

Lent is a time for conversion and renewal. Catholics are called to practice self-discipline through fasting, abstaining from meat on Fridays, and making small sacrifices. It is also a season for giving alms and spending more time in prayer. These practices help us grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for Easter.

Lord, open our eyes to see as you see. Help us to look beyond appearances and to trust in your purpose. Lead us out of darkness and into your light. Give us faith to follow you and courage to share your love. Amen.

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with our Parish Child safety officer Debbie Turvey on 0407 804 317.

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 years. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation Australians in truth, justice and reconciliation.

Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura

PO Box 110 Tatura VIC 3616

Phone: 0436 112 232

Email: tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website:

<http://www.sacredheartparishtatura.com.au>

Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Parish Tatura

DIOCESE NEWS – 15/3/2026



Discover Catholic Podcasts and events happening across Australia – retreats, pilgrimages, workshops and more.

Visit www.CathEvents.org.au to find opportunities to grow in faith and community. Event organisers can also list their events for free, helping more people connect and participate.

Link for 2026 Lent Reflections on the Diocese Website:

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/3010-lent-reflection-resources-2026>

The February statement, launched last week, is titled ***The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good.***

Read the Statement at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2026/01/29/the-cost-of-our-living-economic-and-social-justice-for-the-common-good/>

The latest Along the Track can be found on our website under the heading of **Sharings / Along the Track**



Diocese Website: <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au>

Diocese Facebook Page: Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

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Donation QR Code



Fourth Sunday of Lent 14–15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

GET OUR SEAL OF APPROVAL
THIS EASTER AND BEYOND!



Treat yourself with responsibly sourced chocolate this Easter, supporting brands committed to eliminating slavery from their supply chain.

Learn the truth

A significant portion of chocolate available in Australia is produced using cocoa beans harvested by child labourers, many of whom endure enslavement and exploitative working conditions.

Indulge responsibly, select ethically sourced chocolate, and support companies working towards eliminating slavery from their supply chain this Easter.

Here is how:

1. Join the one billion people who read the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard (<https://www.chocolatescorecard.com/>) last year to discover their chocolate's true origins and evaluate their favourite brands' ethical practices.

2. Seek out the Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance certifications on chocolate packaging.

Note these certification seals mean the certified ingredient was produced using methods that support social, economic, and environmental sustainability.



SCAN ME



Take action and
make a difference today!



**CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL
SANDHURST**

***“The Harvest of the
Spirit of God”***

Healing Day

Charismatic Mass celebrated by

Fr Arun Korlakanti

Spiritual Chaplain CCR Sandhurst

Saturday 21st March 2026

9.30 cuppa, 10.00am-3.30pm

St Brendan's Knight St, Shepparton

at Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre

Lunch: Please bring a plate to share

All welcome

An offering will be taken up

Contact: Brigita Hore: 0412 042 196

Mary Zobec: 0427 190 282

Denise Illot: 0407 506 813

FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT – 15 March

MANAINI from FIJI

Life in rural Fiji has always been a struggle for 44-year-old Manaini, a mother of six and grandmother of two. The family lived from what they grew, but meals were plain and often lacked nutrition. Store food was too expensive. At night, the village was in darkness, leaving children and the elderly unsafe.

Holding back tears, Manaini shared: “The things I worry about the most is my kids’ education. The requirements that need to be met are hard for me to achieve with my daily income.”

Almost one quarter of Fiji’s population live in poverty, and rates are higher in rural villages. Any extra income can mean the difference between children completing school, being able to buy medicine, or simply managing daily costs. This is what poverty looks like in rural Fiji – every dollar counts.

The nation also faces one of the worst health crises in the Pacific. Diabetes and heart disease are widespread. On average, every eight hours, three people lose a limb to diabetes. Viloki, who works with Caritas Australia’s partner FRIEND (Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development), explained: “Fiji has one of the highest rates in the Pacific in terms of non-communicable diseases. That’s like 80% of the people here have one or the other form of non-communicable diseases, including diabetes... Every eight hours, there are three amputations.”



Manaini and her grandson work together on homework after school, in a small village in Fiji. Photo: Caritas Australia.



Manaini (centre) learns food processing skills as part of a program run by Caritas Australia’s partner in Fiji. Photo: Caritas Australia.

Thanks to your generosity, Manaini joined training with local partner, FRIEND. She learnt food processing skills to transform leftovers from crops like cassava and taro into flour and increase her weekly income. Her family eats healthier meals, and she saves money. With the women’s group she bakes cakes and pies to sell for extra income.

Seeds from the program gave her a thriving garden, and she makes her own organic fertiliser and pesticides. Solar lights now brighten the village, helping children to study and walk safely.

Manaini is proud of what she has achieved. She said, “The project totally changed the life of my family and even the community.”

REFLECTION for FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT

1Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 | Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6. R. v.1 | Ephesians 5:8-14 | John 9:1-41

There are many occasions when we ask the question why and can't find the answer for which we are looking. Why did we miss out on a job? Why did someone we love get cancer? Why can't we find a place to live that we can afford? Why do some days seem so difficult?

It is good to sit with our confusion and even grief. It is good to share it with the Lord who loves us so tenderly. But sometimes we have to step aside from the question why did this happen? It may be better to start with where can I go from here? What small steps will enable me to face the future in a positive spirit?

Today's readings touch upon these issues. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters a person who was born blind. The bystanders want to know why this happened. They think it must be because either he or his parents did something wrong. They are looking backwards. Jesus prefers to look forwards. He says, 'he was born blind so that the works of God may be displayed in him.' In other words, his blindness presents opportunities for growth, not a pretext for blame. The letter to the Ephesians similarly reminds us that we are on a journey from darkness to light. The whole of Lent could be described in those words. The letter says, 'try to discover what the Lord wants of you.' It asks us in terms of possibilities! The same thing happens when Samuel anoints David. It doesn't matter that David is a young shepherd. He has a big future, as anyone familiar with the Bible well knows.

This week, Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, draws us into the story of Manaini, a 44-year-old mother and subsistence farmer in remote northern Fiji. She has transformed her family's life through food processing and organic farming, thanks to a Caritas-supported project. Once reliant on more store-bought food and prone to food waste, she now produces homemade flours, dried foods, and sells produce and baked goods from local crops. Her passion for learning has made her a key player in her community, working with others to embrace more sustainable, empowering ways of living. Thanks to the generosity of the Australian Catholic community, hundreds of thousands of people such as Manaini are finding an answer to the question, 'where can we go from here.'



Register your parish for
online fundraising at

<https://projectcompassion.org.au/parish>

and then download
your unique QR code
to replace this box.



projectcompassion.org.au

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'.

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.

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.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 9:1-41

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Breaking Open the Word

'WE ARE NOT BLIND!'

The rich theological symbolism evident from last Sunday's Gospel of John continues in today's drama between light and darkness. Jesus meets a man born blind and tells him to wash in the sanctified pool of Siloam south of the temple. The blind man returns able to see. Over several scenes in one of the most dramatic and engaging stories in all the Gospels, the man who now has vision is consistently interrogated by the religious authorities who, though they are supposed 'to see', move into spiritual blindness.

The dynamic evident in the story is that each time the man is interrogated, he goes back to his experience of being healed by Jesus. Each reflection moves him to a deeper realisation of what has happened and who Jesus is: at first he calls Jesus simply 'a man', then later, that Jesus is 'from God', until finally, the man worships him. This movement of faith into light is accompanied by a similar movement into darkness by the religious leaders. They fail to see that they have become blind to Jesus and his deeds of healing (which John calls 'signs'). 'We are not blind, surely?' they retort.

This drama is acted out in our day. Jesus' final words to his antagonists and John's audience are forever relevant. 'Blind?' questions Jesus, 'If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.' This clarity of understanding and insight is important in a world where truth is camouflaged as falsehood and lies proclaimed as truth. We need to journey with the man born blind, to reflect on our experiences, to be with Jesus and 'see'.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

15 MARCH 2026

FIRST READING

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

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 on.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R. v. 1

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

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**



SECOND READING

Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

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,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 8:12

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

Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.