

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 on.

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,
rise 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. 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.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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4th Sunday of Lent Year A- Laetare Sunday
18th /19th March, 2023
Caritas – Project Compassion Week 4

*Saving God,
You sent Jesus Your Son to wake us from sleep.
Enlighten Your Church, so that
We might truly know Your Son.
Open all blinded eyes, and
Let us see with the eyes of Faith,
Jesus, our Saviour, the Light of the world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



LAETARE SUNDAY Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as *Laetare* Sunday for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon *laetare* (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy.

FOCUS ON THE WORD: The story of the man born blind continues the theme touched on last week of a journey of faith symbolised in this passage as **a journey from darkness to light**. 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 Stevie Wonder, the famous singer and musician who is blind, once remarked that just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn't mean he lacks vision. What do you think he meant? What do you think we need to learn from him?

Jesus cured a man born blind. That man had more 'vision' than the Pharisees, who could see . **Q. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us about spiritual and physical blindness?**

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SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN: The Parish of St John the Baptist, and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK: **Mon 20th Mar** - *St Joseph, Spouse of the blessed Mary*
Thurs 23rd Mar *St Turibius of Mogrovejo* **Sat 25th Mar** *The Annunciation of the Lord*

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

PARISH PRIEST:
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DEACON:
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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
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Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 10.00am -2.00pm
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PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday 9.45am – 3.45pm
Tuesday to Friday 9.00am -3.00pm
Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne & Maree Wilson

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St John the Baptist 9758 1013
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St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
Principal: Catherine Livingston
Mater Christi College 9754 6611
Principal: Maria Haggett

MASS TIMES:
Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday 7.00pm
Wed & Thurs 9.15 am
Friday 11.00 am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5.15 pm

GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS 1st Friday 2pm
WILLOWBROOK MASS 3rd Thursday 11am

BAPTISMS: Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. 6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism on our Parish Website.

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- Laetare Sunday
18th / 19th March, 2023- Project Compassion**

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Joseph Edmunds, Therese Edmunds, Carmella Nardone, Giuseppina Russo, Michael Atkinson, Tom Schepisi, Basil Lorimer, Mary Whelan, Ronald Gallenti., Brian Mitchell.

The sick: Elsie Johnson, Peggy Spencer, Alan Alcock,, Ann Good, Ben McLaey, Don Roberts, Maureen Wilson, Lucy Denzin, Gabby Sundstrom, Kathryn Kircos, Ruby Samtoy, Barbara Kenny, Anne Jayawardena, Lea Hatley, Catherine Turner, Patricia Quinn, David Merton, Michael Byrne, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Allida Serafin, Clive Geach.

SICK LIST – If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office.



ROSARY is recited prior to Morning Weekday Mass on Wed, Thurs, Friday, in the Church. All welcome to join in the recitation.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

When: First Saturday of the Month at 10.30 am.
Where: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS We will be reciting the Stations of the Cross on Friday at 10.30 am during lent followed by mass at 11.00 am



At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. **All are invited to join.**

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING The group meets informally every Thursday, at 10am in the Parish Hall. Please drop in for a cuppa, a chat, or perhaps a game of cards. All welcome

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP in the Parish Hall from 10.15am Tuesdays, followed by a shared lunch. All welcome. This week is a special healing meeting.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP 9am-10am, in the Parish Office. At Mothers Prayers we pray together for our children and grandchildren and find the support we need. Come and join us!

NEW STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED-Stewardship is the heartbeat of our Church., it keeps our church and surrounds well maintained and helps us to budget. Please contact the Parish office, if you can assist. Please, RSVP as soon as possible!

PARISH RETREAT Dear Parishioners,
We would like to express an invitation to all parishioners to attend the parish Lenten retreat starting this weekend at all masses, then continuing, on Monday and Tuesday at 6.30pm, here at our doorstep, at St John the Baptist church. We as individuals and collectively as a parish will have the opportunity to pray, to adore and to listen to God's word and attend the mass. Please take the opportunity to welcome our facilitator, Fr Rojan George, this weekend and I hope to see you on Monday and Tuesday. With blessings, Mary



SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP - TRIVIA NIGHT

☺ Come and join the fun. ☺ ☺ Don't need to be an expert. ☺

Date: Saturday 25th March

Venue: School Hall

Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Cost: \$10 per adult. BYO drinks

and nibbles. Make up a table or come and join one.

Tickets are available after all w/e masses from the 4th March or **contact Patrick 0434072831** (call or text) or

via Email: psawyer@bigpond.net.au

Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation"

(Aboriginal students support), Thornbury and the Alfajiri Kids Art in Kenya. See <https://www.alfajiri.org/>



HARMONY WEEK 20th -26th March – Theme:

Everyone Belongs. Time to celebrate find out more at www.harmony.gov.au/events/harmony-day-events

Caritas PROJECT COMPASSION AUSTRALIA WEEK 4 THU'S STORY,

VIETNAM When Thu was 12 years old, he lost his leg after stepping on an unexploded land mine – from the Vietnam War. Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer. After his wife, Linh, suffered a stroke, he had to take on the additional role of carer for his wife. Thu joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, supported by Caritas Australia through our local partners, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD). Through the program, Thu learnt livelihood, financial and independent living skills and joined a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) where he could interact with other people with disabilities and earn income through making incense sticks. For All Future Generations. Support Project Compassion today: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion
Watch Thu's Story here: [▶ Project Compassion 2023 - Films on Vimeo](#)

TÜRKIYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE DISASTER A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Türkiye and Syria. Over 50,000 people have been killed, with many more injured and left homeless. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe. Your generous donation means our partners in Türkiye and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy.
Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

PRAYING FOR OUR RECONCILIATION CANDIDATES



In preparation for their upcoming 1st Reconciliation, our students have prepared some bookmarks, which we invite our parishioners to take home, and keep the chosen candidate in your Prayers. Please

look for the poster with the open hands, and heart, and take a bookmark if you can help with prayers. Thank you all.

CHRISM MASS will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sat 1st April at 10am. All welcome.

TOP LENTEN PROMISES: things to surrender

- Grumpiness** – irritability is a choice. We can choose to be grumpy and hang on to our right to be foul-tempered, or we can choose to be pleasant and good humored.
- Blame** – when things go wrong, stop looking for a scapegoat. Practice acceptance and responsibility.
- Superiority** – A judgmental attitude is like a rotting corpse – it spreads it's bile over everyone in criticism and put downs.
- Gossip** – resist taking delight in someone else's failure. Protect their reputation and let the bad news stop with you.
- Vanity** – give up self-obsession and the fantasy that the world revolves around you. Start revolving your life around God and you'll find more joy than you ever dreamed.
- Self-pity** – everyone has to deal with setbacks and disappointments. Self-pity won't change your circumstances; it just makes you feel powerless.
- Resentment** – unforgiveness and resentment hangs over a person's life like dark thunder clouds. It makes your life gloomy and your presence unpleasant. It's not worth the cost.

ROSTERS: Mon 20th Mar to Sun 26th March 2023

Flowers	LENT no flowers
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N & Wilma 9am Terry S, Neil & Loraine, Peter C 11am: Priya H & Patrick S
Lectors	6pm Alvi M 9am: Peter F 11am: Phuong B
Counters	George & Genevieve W & Bindu M
Gardening	Carlos E