



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

"BE STILL AND KNOW I AM GOD..."

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 3pm

Parish Priest : Fr Peter Taylor

St Mel's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

22 March 2020



*Readings for
this week:*

1 Samuel 16:1,6-
77,10-13
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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St Mel's Parish Is...

"A welcoming and caring community that helps all people grow stronger in our Catholic Faith."

Anniversaries: Giuseppe Primerano, Lenny Calandro, Rocco & Maria Montagna Nicolaci, Efipania Aguirre, Annunziata (Nancy) Mallamaci, Rocco Scarcella, Cecilia & Antonio Iaria, Rocco & Rafelk Iaria, Ken Brassel.

Prayers for the sick: Vic Apostle, Graeme, Andre, Margaret Cranko, Carmel Walsh, Joseph Yandall, Nina Bovalino.

MASSES THIS WEEK: 23rd to 29th of March

Mon 23rd - No Mass

Tues 24th - No Mass

Wed 25th - No Mass

Thurs 26th - No Mass

Fri 27th - No Mass

Sat 28th - No Mass

Sun 29th March - No Masses



Important information.

As per notification from Bishop Shane churches should as far as possible remain open for private prayer.

- ♦ St Mel's Church will be open it's doors from Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 3pm
- ♦ Our Parish bulletin will be available from the church foyer. If you would like the copy of the bulletin emailed to you, please phone the Parish office and we will add you to our email list.
- ♦ All public liturgies are suspended from the church except for funerals with a carefully limited congregation.
- ♦ The chapel at the Parish House is closed for any visits, however the church will remain open.
- ♦ Fr Peter is available to visit your home, aged care facility or hospital. Please contact Fr Peter on 0409521039 to arrange visitation.
- ♦ ***Fr Peter will be away from Monday the 23rd of March until Wednesday 25th. Please avoid calling at this time.***
- ♦ ***RE-HOLY WEEK. At this stage we are waiting on directions as to how Holy Week ceremonies will be presented.***

FR PETER'S REFLECTION

Last week we heard from the readings that spoke of seeing as God sees. To not live in blindness rather to walk in the light of Christ. Presently across our Shepparton communities in faith discussion is taking place around creating ... A winter night shelter! This is taking up the call of meeting the one who is homeless and where some relief can be offered. All too often many are living in the darkness of being without shelter. We might say ... 'Why is this so?'

The Gospel offers reflection upon the darkness and the light, through the one who is cured of blindness. Humanely we hear of many experiencing the darkness of homelessness across our communities. How this happens we can never be sure. To accompany this issue of many doing it "rough" might bring consideration to their hope of coming into the light of welcome and presence.

Let's take a look into this episode of the man with blindness and Jesus. Then blind man is immediately judged. This could have been a natural reaction and was associated more with the man's wrongdoing as to why he was blind. Ailments such as blindness were causally linked with sinfulness according to the Jewish mind. Jesus' response was on the line of not blaming anyone for his condition, rather more that the works of God might be revealed in him.

Like the hope for the winter night shelter happening in the colder months, so the outcomes might be through some coming into a new sight of being welcomed and not judged. The reactions of Jesus to the blind man's hopes brought confusion of attitude among those Jesus thought were on side with him. For us in this outcome, a broken outcome (the man's blindness) is somehow offered to be a moment where God is revealed, while seeing through the struggle to where God acts through Jesus.

For us in this week of Lent is seeing moments where God encounters us. Hopefully we find our moment where we might change in view or opinion to the sight giving us purpose and presence.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Many of us say we believe in God. We try and see where God wants us to be in our Parish and Church life. It's when things go against us we can question God and maybe see where our ways in trust go. To live with gratitude is to see God who meets us and where through our giving we deepen our presence for God.

GUIDANCE FOR LITURGY AND PASTORAL CARE.

Access to Mass and to Churches

- ♦ All but priests are dispensed from attending Sunday Mass: the faithful are encouraged 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.
- ♦ There are many options for Mass online, including:
 - ⇒ <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>
 - ⇒ <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
 - ⇒ www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass
- ♦ On free to air TV, *Mass for You at Home* is broadcast at 6.00am every Sunday, Channel 10.
- ♦ Priests should celebrate daily Mass privately and offer it on behalf of those who cannot attend and for the whole nation.
- ♦ Prayers of intercession for an end to the pandemic and for the safety of all should be included in Masses, in the Divine Office, and in private prayers.
- ♦ Sunday Mass will be celebrated privately in Bendigo and 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

THE PARISH OFFICE - Given this current situation of

our well being with Carona Virus, can I suggest for this time we are experiencing, we limit our visits to the PARISH OFFICE. For NOT in the slightest do I not want you coming or saying hello, rather a simple phone call can make things easier for all in keeping our needs and contacts known and where messages can be conveyed. You can also place any requests in the letter box near the parish office door. Fr Peter

GATHERINGS AND MEETINGS IN THE PARISH HOUSE. (in relation to the Corona virus)

NO GATHERINGS are to take place in the Gathering Room until further notice. SORRY for any inconvenience that may cause

CARONA VIRUS - As we have been hearing, the escalation of this virus is impacting us greatly. Across our aged care places and retirement villages like Banksia at Kialla Gardens, the community there have informed us **NO** volunteers at Banksia (Kialla Gardens) until further notice'!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2020

The previous schedule date of **July 19th 2020** has been **CANCELLED**. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. We are hoping to recommence the programme later in 2020 to continue in 2021. We will keep you informed. If you have any concerns please contact Mel Shiels on 0400150188.

PLANNED GIVING (STEWARDSHIP)

We have received quite a lot of information from our Bishop in regards to online mass, suspension of liturgies, making a bulletin available etc....our Bishop is also suggesting to invite parishioners to make an electronic contribution to the Parish. Please consider this and if you would like to make a direct debit contribution please phone the Parish Office and we will give you the details. Those who have planned giving envelopes may wish to drop them off into the letter box near the Parish Office door. Your contribution at present is still a vital means to your connection and involvement with our Parish. Please see this as being important and through your giving to our church and Parish. Thank you for this.

Fr Peter.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY - 22nd MARCH

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

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***

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

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 - Shorter form - John 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. 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

