

Weekly Parish Newsletter

Bollettino Parrocchiale Settimanale

Volume XIV Issue 8th FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT "Year A" 22nd March 2020

The Parish Community of St. Brigid and St. Mark

378 Nicholson Street — North Fitzroy 3068 VIC Phone No: 03 9489 6777

stbrigidstz@yahoo.com.au - website: <http://pol.org.au/fitzroynorth/>



ALL MASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. If you wish to participate in a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT "I am the light of the world" We celebrate this 4th Sunday of Lent in an unprecedented way: not in church, not with songs and prayers in togetherness, not in greeting our fellow believers... but alone, at home, possibly watching the celebration on TV. The Coronavirus has brought isolation, fear, a feeling of impotency. The fear of becoming infected or infecting others creates an overwhelming sense of frailty and anxiety. Can we turn this into a positive spiritual experience? The Gospel reading of today of the man born blind and restored to sight by Jesus helps us see light and life in a more hopeful way by strengthening our faith in Jesus. Jesus our light, Jesus our hope in the uncertainties of life! The physical restrictions of today make us understand what Jesus said last Sunday: "A time will come when those who worship must worship in spirit and truth". Forced to isolation, now is the opportune time to pray and worship God from a deep abandonment into his love, mercy and power to heal. From this will come a light to see our life in a new perspective: It is God who saves us, not our fretting for many earthly things.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast. (Is 66:10-11)

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 will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. ***This is the Word of the Lord.***

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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./**

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./**

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./**

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./**

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (5:8-14)

Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." ***This is the Word of the Lord.***

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John (shorter form) (9:1 - 41)

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshipped him. Jesus said, "For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this, and they said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains. ***The Gospel of the Lord.***

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord anointed my eyes; I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God. (Jn 9:11,38)