



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

or longer form Jn 9:1-41

*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.

### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Lord, by the power of his word alone, could have healed the dis-ease of this man, blind since birth. Yet, he made a paste with spittle and put it over the eyes of the blind man. Just as God would have moistened the dust of the earth to shape the first human being, for the blind man, it was as though he had been created anew.

God rarely works by telepathy but has a preferred way of working through the elements of creation, especially in the Sacraments. So, with the Anointing of the Sick, pressing olive oil onto the forehead and hands of the sick or dying symbolises the Holy Spirit entering the very pores of the sick person, relieving that person of undue anxiety and giving strength for the next stage of life.

This sacrament is a formal ritual of healing by the Church. But there are a million informal ways, such as putting one's arm around someone who is lonely or unwell, which are sacramental to the world.

We could pause for a moment that we might go into the world like the man healed by Jesus, eyes wide open to see where we might exercise the healing power of the Lord of the Gospel.

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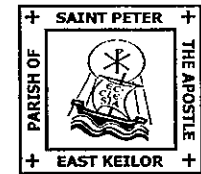
## PARISH OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

EAST KEILOR

22 March 2020

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Year A

Volume 41, Number 9



Fourth Sunday of Lent A, Year A

22 March 2020

### First Reading 1 Sm 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.

### 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

*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.

### 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!*

20 March 2020

My dear people,

As many of you would know by now, the Bishops of Victoria have had to make the decision to suspend the public celebration of Mass and other liturgies.

This is indeed a sad time for us believers when we come to the realisation that we can't come together to praise and worship our beloved God together. The suspension of Mass does not mean that prayer is suspended. On the contrary, this is the time to double down on our prayers for each other, for the sick and elderly, and our country at this time.

Over the following days, I encourage you to keep an eye on our website and our Facebook page. I will also post any communication and updates to the parish noticeboard and copies will be available on the table in the narthex to take home.

I will continue to celebrate Mass privately on a daily basis and will be praying for all of you. While you have been dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, there are still several ways to ensure that the day of the Lord is kept holy. These include: time in personal and family prayer (such as praying the rosary together), reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online. Please see <http://bit.ly/MassonDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or [www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

The church will remain open during the following times: Monday-Friday: 8.30am-10am, Weekends: Saturday 8.30am-11am, Sunday 8.30am-6pm. Church is open for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, no community prayers. On weekends, the main gates will be closed but the pedestrian gate left open. Please park your car outside.

I thank you for your understanding at this unprecedented time and for putting the interests of the larger community before our own. Let us support each other in our faith and continue to storm heaven for the elimination of this virus from the world.

Please keep me also in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,



Fr Arockia Manoharan Sebastian msfs  
Parish Administrator

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### PARISH MEETINGS

All Parish Meetings are cancelled until further notice.

### IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### SICK

Magdalene Anasarias

#### RECENTLY DECEASED

Joseph Gbac, Kevin Leys, Fr Peter James Robinson PE, Freddy Caruana, Dolores Farrugia

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Peter Colosimo, Anesia Bonifacio dos Santos, Mario dos Santos, Franjic Tomislav, Peric Simica, Mary Assunta Muscat, Antonia Attard

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

Presbytery Collection \$927.80  
Thanksgiving (Envelopes) \$1,577.00

### EASTER LAMBS

Easter chocolate lambs can be ordered by calling Teresa on 9337 3103. \$8 each - milk or white chocolate. Proceeds to the Missions.

### CARITAS AUSTRALIA: PROJECT COMPASSION 2020 "Go Further Together" 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help up-lift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.**

### ST PETER'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL



FRIDAY 27 MARCH  
End of Term 1 at 1.30pm

### A Prayer to St Joseph

St Joseph,

You were receptive to God working in your life.

Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service: May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen.