

THIS IS MUCH MORE than a simple miracle story in today's Gospel reading. First of all, it is seen as the fulfilling of the joyful prophecy of Jeremiah which forms our First Reading. This is a prophecy of the return of the exiled Jews from Babylon back to their homeland. The reading is a hymn of praise and rejoicing because of what God is going to do for his people.

In part he says, "I will gather them from the ends of the world with the blind and the lame in their midst", and again he says, "I will lead them to brooks of water on a level road, so that none shall stumble" — thus setting the scene for today's Gospel.

Jesus asks the blind beggar, "What can I do for you?" In last week's Gospel Jesus asked exactly the same question of the apostles James and John. Their answer: "Give us the two top spots in the Kingdom of your glory." In reply they were told very clearly they would get only what they deserved. They also got some firm teaching about serving others and not looking for privileges.

In answer to the same question, Bartimaeus gives a very different answer: "Lord, that I may see." In the context of this story he is asking for much more than physical sight. His prayer is one we all need to make continually.

The secret of life is to be able to see, to see life's real meaning and direction, to be people of vision, to know where God is to be found, where real truth and goodness and beauty are to be found. It is a prayer that is certain to be answered as it was here. "Go," says Jesus, "your faith, your trust in me, has saved you, healed you, made you whole." Immediately, the man was able to see.

Then what did the man do? He did the only thing a person of vision could do: he followed Jesus on the road.

At the beginning of the story we saw a blind beggar sitting beside the road. This is the person who has not yet met Jesus (even if baptised). He is blind, an impoverished beggar (though perhaps materially wealthy), not moving and off the real track of life. At the end of the story, we have a man who can see, has vision, who knows very clearly where he is going and where he should be going. No longer is he a beggar but greatly enriched by that vision. No longer sitting passively waiting to get or receive but now actively walking with Jesus. No longer beside the road but now on the road, on the Way. Jesus is the Way: Jesus is Truth and Life. And this road, as we saw, leads to Jerusalem, that is, to suffering, death and resurrection.

It is also a summary of the Christian's life and pilgrimage. On our own we are blind and poor with nothing of our own. As Christians, we have our eyes opened to the meaning of life, we are to undergo a radical conversion experience which gives new direction to all we are and do. We are ready to walk with Jesus on the way to Jerusalem with clear vision, with true freedom.

Sacred Space

OLIVERIAN

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

PARISH PRIEST
Pastoral Associate
School Principal

Fr James Puppady
Marthese Temming
Delfina Pieri

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email: pascoevale@cam.org.au
website: <https://stolivers.org.au/>

School: Landells Road, PO Box 667, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 5130
Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

For Mass details, please see middle page.

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5.00 pm (Vigil for Sunday)
Sunday 8.45 am & 10.30 am
Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.15 am

Confessions **Saturday 10 —10.30 am**
(In church through both side doors)
Baptisms **2nd Saturday of the month (by appointment)**
Marriages **By appointment with at least 6 months notice**

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday	Christian Meditation	7 - 8 pm Parish Centre (contact Chris Rowland 0411 440 746)
Tuesday	Italian Ladies Prayer Group	10.00 am Meeting Room
	Charismatic Prayer Group	7.30 pm Church
Wednesday	Drop-In Centre	1 - 3 pm Church/Parish Centre
Thursday	St Vincent de Paul	5.30 pm Meeting Room (last Thursday of the month)

FROM ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY **11AM:** Live Streamed and C31 Televised (Channel 44 on Digital TV)
6AM: Channel 10 - "Mass for You at Home"

MONDAY - FRIDAY 1PM : Live Streamed. (Link below)

SATURDAY 8.00AM: Live Streamed. (Link below)

<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> and
<https://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb>

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 23/24 OCTOBER 2021

- Entrance Antiphon:** Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.
- Response to the Psalm:** **The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**
- Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!
Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death,
and brought us life through his gospel.
Alleluia!
- Communion Antiphon:** Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
as a fragrant offering to God.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

- Those who have died:** Kevin Hannan
- Anniversaries:** Christopher Lowe, John Cannon, Giuseppe Armenia
- Those who are ill:** Marie Virag, Amelie Gutierrez, Reg Whiting,
Frances Tamayo, Ocean Goldsmith, Dalmiro Bellio,
Kath Layden, Lamberto Cruz, Monica Wickerson,
Pasquale Buonomo, Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy



Lockdown Light—week eight (final edition)

Podcasts for Christian living: Parenting teens

In this podcast, well known Catholic speaker Jason Evert discusses how to keep an open and ongoing dialogue with your children around topics related to love, dating and other serious issues as well as tips for internet and phone safety. Listen here www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving8

Getting to know your Bible: The Acts of the Apostles—The Church begins

Getting Started: In this interesting video introduction to the Book of Acts, The Bible Project provides an overview of Pentecost and the beginning of the early Church. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted8

Going Deeper: In this video, Bishop Barron speaks about the spread of the Gospel during the early Church, challenging us to share in the same work as St Paul and the early Apostles in proclaiming the message of Jesus to the world. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper8

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr James. The link:

<https://bit.ly/CDFpayPascoeVale>

You can also donate directly to the Presbytery Account

BSB: 083-347

ACC: 53102 0158

We are very grateful for your support at this time.

COVID-19 INSTRUCTION FOR MASS GATHERING

With the lifting of the lockdown restrictions we are now able to gather. Mass will commence this weekend 23/24 October 2021. Regular weekday Masses begin Tuesday 26 October 2021. Mass times will be a usual with a limit of 20 people, double vaccinated.

10 unvaccinated people only permitted to come for Wednesday and Thursday morning Mass:

- Wednesdays at 9.15am St Oliver Plunkett, Pascoe Vale (*beginning Wed 27 October*)
- Thursdays at 10.15am at St Paul's Coburg (*beginning Thur 28 October*)

Because of the limited numbers we ask that you book through the Parish Offices:

St Oliver's: Ph: 7036 9330 Email: pascoevale@cam.org.au

St Paul's: Ph: 9354 1564 Email: Coburg@cam.org.au

Face coverings must be worn by parishioners 12 years and over unless an exception applies.

QR code and proof of vaccination or vaccination exemption status to be sighted on entry to church. Please arrive for Mass 10 to 15 minutes for all to be seated before Mass begins.

We are trying to give an opportunity for all parishioners to attend Mass these next two weeks. Please be aware the government road map states re-opening for 150 people from 5th November 2021.

For more COVID-19 updates from the Archdiocese of Melbourne, go to parish website: <https://stolivers.org.au>

At St Oliver's parish we aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment. Privacy: In 2001 the Commonwealth and Victorian governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information collected from individuals. This Parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.