



**Sacred Heart / Emmaus Parish  
St Albans/Sydenham Western Plains Deanery  
Parish Priest: Fr. Maurie Cooney**



**Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A - 18th - 19th March 2023**

**Parish Details:**

**Address:** 4 Winifred Street, St Albans 3021  
**Phone:** 9366 2146

**Finance:** Lorraine Stafford: [StAlbans.Finance@cam.org.au](mailto:StAlbans.Finance@cam.org.au)

**Parish Office:** Lauren Maslaris: [StAlbans@cam.org.au](mailto:StAlbans@cam.org.au)

**Office Hours:**

**Monday— Wednesday:** 9:30am—4:00pm

**Thursday & Friday:** 9:30am—2:30pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Sacred Heart English Saturday 10.30am  
Maltese every 4th Saturday 4.00pm

**Baptism:** Eight weeks notice is required

**Marriage:** Six months noticed required

**Sacred Heart Mass Times:**

**Weekdays**

Tuesday - Friday 7.30am

Saturday 9.00am

**Weekend**

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 7:30am, 10:30am

Polish 9.00am

Slovene 2nd Sunday of month at 5:00pm

**Emmaus Mass Times:**

Saturday 6:30pm

Sunday 9:00am

**SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Sacred Heart/Emmaus Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. The Parish takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and upholds that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. To report issues and concerns, contact: [stalbans.csc@cam.org.au](mailto:stalbans.csc@cam.org.au) or 0413 841 936

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Sacred Heart-Emmaus Parish acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, the traditional owners of the land where we gather. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

**READINGS**

**This Week:** First Reading: 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

**Second Reading:** Eph 5:8-14

**Gospel:** Jn 9:1-41

**Next Week:** First reading: Ez 37:12-14

**Second Reading:** Rom 8:8-11

**Gospel:** Jn 11:1-45

**REFLECTION**

**REFLECTION: It's not too late to get started!**

What a great symbol for this process the 'twisted willow' in our churches is through Lent – having shed its former growth, it is putting out new roots and developing signs of new life! Dropping away some 'old growth' from our lives: and creating space for new life and growth for new ways ahead: that is the call and opportunity of Lent. It's not too late to get started!

This 'conversion' doesn't come from the wave of a magic wand, but from learning to do good through concrete actions every day, Pope Francis has said. Conversion happens through humility and trying to become "better than the day before," the Pope said.

"It is a path, a path of turning away from evil and of learning."

This summarises the Church's longstanding practice of fasting and prayer during Lent: fasting from (i.e. giving up) some thoughts, actions, attitudes that are not Christ-like; praying in a way that listens to the call of Christ to live in His way; and doing things in a new, Christ-like way.

The Pope repeated, "You learn to do good through concrete things. Not with words and good intentions, but with actions." In the gospels, the Pope continued, Jesus reproaches the scribes and Pharisees because they do not put into actions what they preach.

"They do not know concreteness. If there is no concreteness, there can be no conversion," he said.

This is the point of this Season. Pope Francis said all Christians are called to embark on "the path of Lenten conversion," knowing that God "is a father who speaks, he is a father who loves us."

"He accompanies us on this path of conversion. He only asks of us to be humble; then our sins all will be forgiven.

**LENT PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION SERVICES**

Emmaus: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

Sacred Heart: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm with the opportunity for one-on-one Sacrament.

**Maltese confessions** with Fr. Edwin Agius will be at Sacred Heart Church

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 11am – 12pm.

## WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

**RECENT DEATHS:** Ines Chen Pham, Manuel Pagarigan

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Antonia Demicoli, Mazzarino Calleja, Cecilia & Frank Cordina,, Maria And Joseph Orsini, John Kim Vu, Wally Szostak, Joseph Grech, George Muscat, Louis & Nancy Muscat, Frank & Josephine Caruana, John Mallia, Emmanuel Sammut, Georgina Muscat, Tessie Farrugia, Lewis, Paul & Joe Psaila, Sam & Luke Cassar, Margaret Borg, Bertha Dumenil, Mabel & Joseph Legay, Carmelo Falzon, Leli Bugeja, Charlie Camilleri, Mary Psaila, Joe Colerio, May Seguna, Rosemarie Ayroso, Maria & Paul Rozario, Benjamine & Anastaria Gomes, Fr Joshua, Peter Muscat, Joe & Paula Muscat, Patrick Smith, John Kim Vu, Pero Kilsanin, Paul Aquilina, Aaron D'souza, Fo Heang Lee, Angela Xuereb, Michael & Josephine Piacentini, Joeane, Martin, George, Clarrie James, Clare, Collin.

## OUR PASTORAL, SOCIAL & SCHOOL EVENTS

### Lenten 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.

### None so blind

There's a very old saying that has its roots in the Bible but is not a direct quote from the Bible: 'There are none so blind as those who will not see.' It would be a fitting summary of today's passage for there are two movements between darkness and light that are evident in the story. Firstly, there is the blind man who can see. He can see physically but can also see the truth of who Jesus is. Secondly, there are the authorities who have physical sight but are completely blind to the truth of Jesus.

### Risen Lord Community Prayer Group

#### Lenten/Easter program

Our Prayer Group for many years have conducted Stations of the Cross during lent on Fridays from 7:15pm till 7:55pm prior to our prayer meeting. *(Except for Friday 3rd of March)* Our parishioners of Sacred Heart/ Emmaus are most welcome to participate in the stations of cross. God Bless! Rukmal Mendis



During the Season of Lent we are urged to prepare for renewal in our faith at Easter [see reflection on the front page]. To assist with this, Lent calls us to particular focus on key elements in our living our faith: prayer, self-denial in order to consider others more, and deliberate actions of charity and support. **PROJECT COMPASSION** material is available in the foyers today – boxes, envelopes, leaflets, providing an opportunity for reaching out to others during this Season.

## HOLY WEEK EASTER - MINISTRY

This weekend at Mass there will be sign up sheets to put your name down to participate in Mass during Holy Week.

As well as Readers and Communion Ministers, there will be roles for palm carriers, oil presenters, foot washers, cross carriers, water carriers and more!!! Sign on now!!

You can also call or email the Presbytery office to register 03 9366 2146 or [stalbans@cam.org.au](mailto:stalbans@cam.org.au)



### PALM SUNDAY (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> April)

Usual weekend Mass times. Procession of Palms commences at the front of the churches

### HOLY THURSDAY (6<sup>th</sup> April)

EMMAUS: 7pm  
SACRED HEART: 7pm

### GOOD FRIDAY (7<sup>th</sup> April)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 11am on 'the oval' at SACRED HEART

### SERVICE OF THE LORD'S PASSION

EMMAUS: 3pm  
SACRED HEART: 3pm

### HOLY SATURDAY (8<sup>th</sup> April)

BLESSING OF FOOD - SACRED HEART: 10am

### EASTER VIGIL (8<sup>th</sup> April)

EMMAUS: 7pm  
SACRED HEART: 7pm

### EASTER SUNDAY (9<sup>th</sup> April)

EMMAUS: 9am  
SACRED HEART: 7.30am, 9am (Polish) 10.30am

### St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Try to keep God with us, by charity of thought, word and act.

Mary MacKillop 15th. Sept. 1890.