

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.

*Longer form, 9:1-41*

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

19 MARCH 2023

## CHRIST'S TRANSFORMING LIGHT

Learning to read between the lines is not a skill that comes naturally to most of us. Today's readings show just how difficult and challenging it can be to look into the heart of things to see them as God does. Samuel knew that he had been commissioned to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the new king, but which one? As Samuel is reminded, we tend to look at appearances but God looks at the heart. Ultimately, it is the Lord who will teach Samuel that David is the chosen one.

The letter to the Ephesians invites us to join in the journey of discovering what the Lord wants of us. It requires honesty and trust, to bring ourselves as we are to the light of Christ. While fear might hold us back, there is the encouraging reminder that what is brought to the light of Christ is not condemned, but transformed and turned into light.

The episode of the man born blind is a marvellous example of how difficult and yet freeing, it is to come into the light of Christ. The man gradually moves from seeing Jesus as a man, then as a prophet, and finally coming to believe in him as Lord. He was originally treated as an outsider because of his disability. After being questioned three times, his growing insight and faith lead him to be cast out yet again, but now he is no longer alone; now the Lord stands beside him.



Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel  
*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.

## 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*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 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!

## GOSPEL

Jn 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

19 Mar 23  
Lent 4 Yr A

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>  
**Email:** [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.  
**Administration** Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principals** Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

**Office Hrs:** Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am  
**Presbytery** 67658211  
**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

**WEEKEND MASSES** Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30pm



### CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm

\*Or by appointment

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Mon: 12 noon St Joseph's Liturgy Service

Wed: 12 noon Thurs: 9am Fri: 9 am

**ENTRANCE** My eyes are always on the Lord, for He rescues my feet from the snare.

**ANTIPHON:** Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**COMMUNION** For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give

**ANTIPHON:** will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

**May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Gary McSweeney, Sr Clare Keating RSJ, Margaret Cummins, Janet Corcoran, Anna Fordham, Pam Perkins.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Marie Mansfield (3/3), Vivian Betts (15/3), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

**DECEASED:** Cardinal George Pell, Barbara Smith, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

**SICK:** John Betts, Gerard Dunn, Terry Dean, Sr Gerard Joseph, Gail Styman, Suzanne Roberts, Shane Davidson, Pauline Wiley, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Shirley Collier, Norma O'Brien, Barbara Brennan, William Bonner, Colin MacPherson, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, Peter Richards, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood.

### VEENA'S VERSIONS

 Irish O'Gara was arrested and sent for trial for armed bank robbery. After due deliberation, the jury foreman stood up and announced, 'Not guilty.' 'That's grand,' shouted O'Gara, 'Does that mean I get to keep the money?'

\*What do you get if you pour hot water down a rabbit hole? Hot Cross Bunnies.

\*\*Where do NSW rabbits live? In Warren

... "Lent is 40 days long, not including Sundays" (that means the season is technically 46 days long). How many days left - try this: <https://days.to/until/lent-catholic>

### CHURCH COLLECTIONS:

BSB 082105 1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery Acc 001023642 (Diocese collection)  
2nd Collection -West Tamworth Catholic Church. Acc 001041198 (Church Collection)

### COMING EVENTS:

19 Mar Morning tea Celebration of St Patrick's and St Joseph's Feasts - Catechist Installation.  
20 Mar St Joseph Solemnity Monday 20 12 pm Liturgy  
29 Mar Anointing of the Sick Mass 12pm and Easter Reconciliation 2nd Rite 5.30pm.  
26 May, 29 Aug, 17 Nov Mission & Evangelisation Events

"Let us be entirely Gods. (1874)

**COVID GUIDE:** \* FACE MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

\* ANTISEPIC WIPES & SANITISER ARE AVAILABLE.



**PARISH 'IRISH' MORNING TEA/CATECHIST DAY** will be held today 19 March to celebrate St Patrick's and St Joseph's Days (17 & 19 Mar) and to also commission our catechists for the current year. Please come along and bring a plate to share if you can.

**CATECHISTS NEEDED:** This weekend we recognise the service of catechists in our Parish. This is a very rewarding and important role. We are desperately short of catechists. If you would like to join others in our Parish in sharing God's love for everyone to the children in state schools in our Parish area please contact the office. You will be very much supported and appreciated.

**ST JOSEPH'S SOLEMNITY:** Monday 20 March, - Liturgy service 12pm. A few years ago, during his trip to the Philippines, Pope Francis popularized a more life-like saint statue: that of St. Joseph, lying on his side, fast asleep. "I like St. Joseph very much. He's a strong man of silence. On my desk, I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he looks after the Church. Yes! We know that he can do that," Pope Francis said during an address in the Philippines on Jan. 16, 2015. "So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note, and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: Pray for this problem!" he added. May we entrust our cares and needs to the quiet and humble man of faith, Joseph.

**CHRISM MASS:** This year's Chrism Mass will take place on Tuesday of Holy Week (4 April) at 11am with Bishop Hanna presiding. Mass will be followed by a light lunch in the Torreggiani Room for priests and parishioners. Parishioners are very welcome to attend the Mass and to stay for lunch afterwards. Confirmation candidates are also encouraged to attend. An RSVP of numbers will be required for catering purposes. Please contact the parish if you wish to attend and provide your numbers and if lunch will also be attended for catering purposes. Thank you

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Thu was just 12 years old when he lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. Through your generosity Caritas supports programs where Thu learnt livelihood, financial and independent living skills. Thu can now earn extra income and support his wife as she recovers from a stroke. You can help people in Zimbabwe continue to thrive by donating through Project Compassion by cash, at: [www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or Ph 1800 024 413.

**EASTER ROSTERS:** \*\*Please advise the office if you are unable to read over the Easter period.

### Pope Francis' thoughts on Catechists:

"Never turn away from this source of love (Jesus), for it is the condition for being happy and full of joy always and in spite of everything.

This is the new life that sprang up in us on the day of Baptism and that we have the responsibility to share with everyone so that it can grow in each person and bear fruit."

### WEEK 3 ROSTER: 19/3/23

**Vigil:** R D Bolitho D Gowing  
**9am Sun:** R M Holley A Sartori  
**5.30pm Sun:** R M Murray C Lavell  
**Counting Team** O and J Whale; A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 24/3 J Hutt J Moran  
**Altar Linen:** H Reid

### WEEK 4 ROSTER: 26/3/23

**Vigil:** R P Bamford Sr Kathryn  
**9am Sun:** R G Clout, M Donaldson  
**5.30pm Sun:** R J Murray D Bearman  
**Counting Team** G & M Thrift, A Bowden  
**Fri Cleaning** 31/3 M Vella A Jones  
**Altar Linen:** J Hutt

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

