

4th Sunday of Lent - Year A, 21st - 22nd March 2020

First Reading: 1 Samuel 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.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22 R. v.1

R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 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.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Ps 19:8-11

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: John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 (Short form)

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. Jesus said: 'It is for judgment that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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4th SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A 21st - 22nd March 2020

**“We have all known the long
loneliness, and we have found that the
answer is community.”**

Dorothy Day

Today's gospel story of Jesus healing the man born blind has a strong and powerful message for our times. Disability was considered to be result of sinfulness in the time of Jesus. Even today suffering can be considered a result of sinfulness by some. Jesus, however, rejects these notions by healing the man and even more radically healing him on the Sabbath. The healing of the man born blind is twofold; the physical cure leads to a spiritual revelation which allows him to see Jesus as the Son of Man. The miracle also causes a stir amongst the community; as here is a man who went unnoticed now challenging the leaders, revealing their own blindness. Jesus' love and compassion bring light - to the man born blind but also to those around him.

In our Project Compassion story this week, we meet Sakun from India, a young woman living with a disability. As is the case in many countries, people like Sakun and her family are often 'out of sight' when it comes to receiving the support and care needed to participate in the life of the community. Through her participation in the Caritas Australia supported program Sakun's dignity is upheld as an equal member of the community, her voice is heard and respected. She has a means to earn an income and is now more independent with her new improved mobility.

How can we use our freedom and courage, much like Jesus with the man born blind to act with justice and love to those who are excluded?

As an unmarried woman with a disability, Sakun was isolated and unable to earn a living until Caritas Australia helped her set up a thriving kiosk. Now involved in village decision-making, Sakun's income is growing, along with her confidence.



Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Priest in Residence:

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Ylenia Useli

shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212 and

Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,

Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai,

Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,

Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Solo-

mon Konchakara, Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Pauline O'Day (President)

Ph: 9484 2445

Parish Mass Schedule

**No Masses until
further notice**

Sacred Heart church will be open for private prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday from 9am to 11am and Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 10am.

Baptisms & Weddings:

By appointment only



**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
Guidelines in Response to the
COVID-19 Pandemic from
19 March 2020 until further notice**



We proclaim a crucified Christ
1Cor1:23

To the people of God in Melbourne, In these days of increased awareness of the risks associated with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) I implore the faithful to be patient, prayerful and resilient. We fully support the Government's restrictions on social gatherings as being responsible and sensible.

To protect one another, especially the most vulnerable, we have been instructed to be very mindful of personal hygiene, of the careful washing of hands, of regularly cleaning shared surfaces and spaces and of respecting the need for physical distancing.

In Melbourne, as with the Dioceses of Ballarat, Sandhurst and Sale, the following actions were determined on 18 March with respect to Catholic worship:

- Immediate suspension of public liturgies, including celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.
- All other gatherings are suspended. For clarification of any concerns, please be in contact with your Parish Priest or Parish Administrator.

While public celebrations of Mass are suspended, our common work for the Gospel does not cease. In fact, this is a time for us all to re-engage in our mission to share Christ, in thoughtful and appropriate ways, with those in most need.

Please check the Melbourne website for information about Mass online and other helpful information:
www.cam.org.au/coronavirus

The following guidelines apply throughout the Archdiocese of Melbourne:

- all but priests are dispensed from attending Sunday Mass (canon 1248): the faithful can keep holy their Sunday by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, watching Mass on television or online, and asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion
- priests should celebrate daily Mass without the physical presence of the lay faithful and offer it on behalf of those who cannot attend and for the whole nation
- churches should remain open for private prayer as much as possible
- the Second and Third Rites of Reconciliation should not be used; First Rite of Reconciliation should only be heard through a protective screen (made of plastic or similar) i.e. no direct face-to-face reconciliation other than the sick in hospital or in their home.
- other instructions will be issued to clergy regarding Baptisms of several children, the RCIA and the various rites of the Triduum.

Welcome!

This weekend through Baptism we welcome **Leonardo Paris Larman** into our Parish family



The following guidelines apply throughout the Archdiocese of Melbourne, continued...

- as far as possible, churches should remain open to allow private prayer; the Blessed Sacrament might be exposed in the monstrance for this purpose (as long as fewer than 100 are attending and with the usual provisions for reverence and security of the Sacrament)
- on days when this is liturgically permitted (see Ordo pp. 10-11), priests should offer the Mass for the Sick, the Mass for Any Need or a votive Mass such as that of Our Lady of Lourdes or St Joseph
- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals may be celebrated if necessary, restricted to immediate family (and small bridal parties etc.); baptisms and weddings can, of course, be postponed
- preparation for and celebration of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation for children should be postponed until the pandemic is over
- all ministers should follow precautions recommended by health authorities when visiting people's homes, aged care facilities, hospitals, prisons and detention centres

Priests will abide by all civil restrictions while seeking to be as pastorally available as possible. These directives will be reviewed as required.

Given on 19 March 2020, the Feast of St Joseph.

St Joseph, Protector of the Church, *pray for us.*
Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

Church Opening Times

Sacred Heart church will be open for private prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday from 9am to 11am and Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 10am.

St Raphael's church, Preston West is open for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday from 9am to 4pm.

Holy Name church, Preston East is open Monday to Saturday from 8.30am to 9.30am.

'Like us' at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartChurchPreston/>



Tell us what you would like to see on our Parish Page!



A Coronavirus Prayer...by Karen Weber

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Sacred Heart Primary School Enrolments



Enrolments for the 2021 school year are open. For a school tour, contact the school principal on 9487 1001 or via the school website:

<http://www.shpreston.catholic.edu.au>

Last Week's Collection: 15/03/20

1st Collection for our Parish: \$1274.55
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$595.25
Thank you for your kind generosity!



WE PRAY FOR:
The elderly and the sick
Lopioni Amato, Alan Castles & Jozef Hatlas
We Commemorate
Ted Murphy

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

A Prayer to St Joseph

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at the 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 grow in faith and pray to the Father, *thy will be done.*

Amen



Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.
Amen.