

## ROSTERS

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!



### LITURGY for 28/29 March

**6pm** **Welcomers:** G&U O'Toole **Gifts:** Melanie & Raj **Readers:** M Clancey, R Cussen  
**Ministers:** M Bonner, K Bouchier, R Coffey, J Conheady, M Crichton, D Friebe  
**9am** **Welcomers:** J Zanos, J Bouwman **Gifts:** Skillbeck Family **Readers:** C Spencer, P Allan  
**Ministers:** H Goddard, J Moorfield, K O'Leary

### CHURCH CLEANING:

#### Week commencing

22 March Group 4: J Hales, T Woolley, M&J McLean  
 29th March Group 5: J McCarthy, J Carroll

### COUNTING TEAMS:

22 March Team 8: Michael Soulsby, Dion Bartlett  
 29 March Team 9 Peter & Geraldine Kenna, Kevin Perera

**COMMUNION TO LYNDONCH:** 29 March: Margaret Dunne, Peter Flynn



## Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday of Lent Year A (John 9: 1-41) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Last week, we journeyed with the woman of Samaria from bewilderment to deep insight into Jesus' identity and mission and to a strong personal faith commitment. This week, we are invited on a faith journey with a man born blind and with the varying groups of participants in the drama. All have the opportunity of coming to faith. Ironically, the blind come to see, both physically and spiritually, while those who are gifted with physical sight remain in spiritual darkness.

In healing the man born blind, Jesus performs the sixth of eight powerful actions or "signs" in John's gospel that reveal God's power at work in Jesus and in the lives of those who seek life. The "signs" invite the reader/hearer/viewer to accept Jesus and his revelation of God and God's purposes.

Time features significantly in the story. Jesus heals the blind beggar on the Sabbath. The Jerusalem authorities have already raised objections about Jesus' Sabbath healing activity (John 5). Once again they object that he is failing to observe the Sabbath. They label him a sinner. Ironically, in the final authoritative analysis, it is they who "remain in their sins". This story reminds us of the need to check our assumptions and, if necessary, to revise our thinking and action. It also reminds us to accept the fact that we can be wrong about things we have always believed. It invites us to be open to seeing differently or from a new perspective. Jesus' disciples, the parents of the man born blind, his neighbours, the religious authorities all operate out of unchecked assumptions. They mostly come to the wrong conclusions. Only those willing to admit that they have it wrong have any chance of coming to faith. In the present political climate in my country, admitting that one "got it wrong" seems to be anathema. And yet, from a gospel perspective, it is a sign of real strength.

In the common estimation, the man was blind, so he or his parents must have sinned. Not so, according to Jesus. From the perspective of the authorities, Jesus heals on the Sabbath and is therefore a sinner. Not so, from Jesus' point of view. The man was born blind and so needs others to speak for him. Not so, say his parents, he can speak for himself. He does speak for himself and quite eloquently, to the chagrin of the religious authorities. He presents them with the truth about Jesus but they refuse to accept the word of an outcast. Their reaction is violent: they drive him out. But Jesus goes in search of him and leads him to yet deeper levels of faith and understanding. You may like to read the story once more and put yourself in the place of the different characters. There is a little bit of each character in every one of us.



**Our Lady Help of Christians Parish**  
**East Warrnambool - Allansford**  
*'A Star in the East'*



## PARISH BULLETIN

4th Sunday of Lent – 22nd March 2020

P.P.: Fr Lawrence O'Toole - Phone 5561 1533  
[olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au](mailto:olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au) [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
 OLHC Primary School: Eugene Dalton - Phone 5562 5559  
[www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au)

Emmanuel College: Peter Morgan - Phone 5560 0888

St. Carthage's Church—Grauers Rd, Allansford

Child Safety Officer—Dion Bartlett 0458 778 935

"I AM THE WAY,  
 THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"  
 JN 14, 18.

**"PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE"**

**Recent Deaths:** Margaret McCarthy, Sister Grace (Ineen) Rogers RSM, Ray McCluskey, Stephen Fitzpatrick, Francis Regan

**Anniversaries:** Jim Rea, Allan Sheppard, Jack Boyce, Inez Couch, Helen Moloney, Monsignor McInerney, Dennis Hand, Kevin McDowall, Tania Greening

**The Word of God:** This Week: 1 Sm 16: 1-6, 7, 10-13/ Eph 5: 8-14/ Jn 9: 1-41  
 Next Week: Ez 37: 12-14/ Rom 8: 8-11/ Jn 11: 1-45

**Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages by Appointment Please phone 5561 1533**

**Our Parish Church is Opened Daily**

*Between 8 am and 5.30 pm for Personal Prayer and Reflection*



**Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier. Mother Teresa**

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: National Theme for Discernment—  
 March: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is open to conversion, renewal and reform?** Join with the Parish Co-ordinating team to consider this Question, 7.30pm **Wednesday 6th May.**

*"Life in a Whole new Light and Clothed with Power from on High"*

Today we welcome with great joy  
**Arlo Hill,**

Who is being baptised into the family of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



[www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au)

Harmony Day is a day which is celebrated in Australia on March 21st. It is a day in which Australians celebrate the core values of inclusiveness, respect for other cultures, tolerance, and diversity. It is a day that began in 1999 and coincides with the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

**Our Lady Help of Christians East Warrnambool is a Child Safe Parish**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM *(Keep for Daily Prayer)*



### THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT

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.**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil shall I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**

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.**

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.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.**

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; glory to our God.

### Today is Rejoicing Sunday

Prayer In The Home

Together we have been Baptised in water and together we have been signed with the cross of Jesus. Let us unite in spirit and Prayer **between 5pm and 6pm** and Pray an Our Father and Ten Hail Mary's as we think of the Resurrection of Jesus from the Dead. He is Our Hope.

### EXTRACT FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF VICTORIA

Prayerful greetings to the people of God across Victoria.

We encourage you to participate in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>).

Please keep in regular contact with your family, neighbours and members of your parish communities as best you can.

We encourage our priests to continue to celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis.

25 March 2020

### THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

This feast originated in the East during the sixth century and gained universal observance in the West during the eighth century. It is a feast of the Lord, commemorating the announcement to the Virgin the conception of Christ nine months before Christmas. Its occurrence close to Easter links the incarnation with the whole mystery of human redemption in Christ

*The most wonderful places to be in the world are: In someone's thoughts.  
Someone's prayers. And in someone's heart.*

## PARISH LIFE—LIFE TO THE FULL

**OLHC Community acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of this land—the Gunditjmara People and other tribes. We deeply respect the Aboriginal Community upon whose land our parish resides.**

**WELCOME TO OLHC & ST. CARTHAGE** In imitation of Jesus Christ, we welcome all people to worship and celebrate God's all-inclusive love with us. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life, we thank you for choosing to be here with us today.

**Our Parish Vision** *"Bringing People together in an atmosphere that is welcoming, nurturing and challenges all to share in the Mystery of God's Love."*

**Spend everyday with the saints.** *"Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me."* (St Patrick; 17 March)

**Worth Watching** "Songs of Praise" Sundays 11.30am on ABC1.

**View ABC1 Compass** 11am Sundays.

**Lent Reflections** on the Sunday Gospels of Lent **"Grace"** are being organised by Dion Bartlett on Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm and by Sister Marie Mansbridge on Wednesday at 10am. Both will be in the Meeting Room.

**Compliments of the Parish** Adult Education the latest edition of *"Australian Catholics."*  
**Prayer Day—Walking with God in Nature:** Sherbrooke Forest. Saturday April 4th, 9.30am-4pm. Bookings 9854 8110.

**Play Group "Music for all Pre-Schoolers"** in the Church foyer commencing April 14th; Easter Tuesday. Leaders—Lisa Battistello and Stephanie Scott.

**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—Conversations** <http://bit.ly/37SGibV>

The next **Parish Co-ordinating Team Meeting** will be held 7th May at 7.30 pm

**Adult Education Online** Sacraments

Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy

Leadership and more. Three weeks

courses begin 19th April. Registrations

close 7th April. Information

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) on 0407 533 424, Kim Butler.



If you wish to give to our **Parish Finances** via bank transfer:

BSB: 06 3533 Acc. No: 0090 3353

Ref: Planned Giving

### Pope's Prayer Intentions for March

#### *Catholics in China*

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

**Marriage Tip:** Pope Francis asked married couples: "How are things when it comes to joy at home? Is there joy in your family?" How would you answer the Pope? He said that true joy "comes from a profound harmony between persons."



### Diocesan Appointments

From Mildura—To Sth America: Fr Michael McKinnon

From Stawell—To Retirement: Fr Eric Bryant

From Swan Hill—To Mildura: Fr Matt Thomas

Stawell into Ararat: Fr Andrew Hayes

From Casterton/Edenhope to Robinvale: Fr Anthony

### Project Compassion—Week 4: India

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.

We pray for our sisters and brother around the world who are living with disability; that together we can work to ensure the God given dignity of all is upheld, removing obstacles and overcoming the structures that exist preventing equality in our communities.

*"We have all known the long loneliness, and we have found that the answer is community." - Dorothy Day*