

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508 Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825
Contact: St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012 Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830
Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – 19th March 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent - Year A

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Ray Larkens, James Hynes, Phyllis Sertori,
Yolanda Pereira, Sunny Packman, Bill Clarke,
Joan Carland, Jack Bowd, Monica Bell, Des Frichot,
Jack Jaensch, Constance Jess, Irene Liston,
Syd Hannett, Kevin Hynes, Kevin Hains

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Graeme Dawson,
Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney,
Graeme Trethowan, Bernie Duffy and all those in need
of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Sue Mahony
26th March: John Jess

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: John Jess
26th March: Charlie Franc

Special Minister

Today: Gail Hall
2 April: Clarrie Johnston

Music

Today: Sue Mahony
26th March: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

March 19th & 26th: Chandler Family
April 2th & 9th: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

Church Grounds

March 19th & 26th: Chandler Family
April 2nd & 9th: Charlie Franc & Peter Milenkovic

Newsletter

March: Angela Gerrard 0439 565 468

MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK

March 26th Mass 8.30am

The Mass of the Oils - Monday, April 3rd, 2023
6.30pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Supper in hall to follow

**Beaufort Confirmation Mass:
Sunday 23rd April**

*We pray for the following five children as they
Prepare to receive their Sacrament of Confirmation:*

- Georgie Chamings
- Shaelee Hayward
- Arabella Jess
- Henry Jess
- Kaela Palacpac

54 **Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine**

55 I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine,
56 now and throughout this day.

57 Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow
58 in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts,
59 fears and divisions will be overcome.

60 We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think
61 too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed
62 [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they
63 have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality
64 and they deserve peace.

65 May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to
66 heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so
67 that dialogue may prevail and the common good be
68 placed ahead of partisan interests.
69 Please, no more war.

70

71 **Praying with Pope Francis**

72 We pray for those who have suffered harm from members
73 of the Church. May they find within the Church herself a
74 concrete response to their pain and suffering.

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76 **Project Compassion**

77 You can donate through Project Compassion donation
78 boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by
79 visiting [https://www.caritas.org.au/project-](https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion)
80 [compassion](https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

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82 **Vinnies (Victoria) Back to School Appeal**

83 To donate go to [https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-](https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/back-to-school-appeal-vic-2023)
84 [vic/back-to-school-appeal-vic-2023](https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/back-to-school-appeal-vic-2023)

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86 **Mission: One Heart Many Voices Conference 2023 –
87 May 3-5, 2023**

88 The Mission: One Heart Many Voices conference,
89 "Lead, Act, Now" will be held from May 3-5, 2023 in
90 Sydney – face-to-face and online. Registration details,
91 the program and more information is available
92 at <https://2023.mohmv.com.au/>

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WE PRAY, FAST AND PERFORM THE
WORKS OF MERCY
IN THIS TIME OF GRACE,
SO THAT THE LORD
MIGHT FIND OUR HEARTS READY
AND FILL THEM
WITH THE VICTORY
OF HIS LOVE.

- Pope Francis -

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