



Readings for
this week:

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



Readings for
next week:

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

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YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Sick List: Luke Holford, Robert Kelso, Jean and Bryan Mulcahy, Graeme Weir, Gerard Hicks, Cecily Dumaresq

Anniversary: Teresa & Paul Pellegrino, Patricia & Bill Sibio

ROSTERS

BINGO ROSTER: 1st April - M. Williams, G. James, V. Emanuelli, C. Fasano, J. Wood, M. Pearson, C. Reeve

COUNTER ROSTER: 26th March - A. & M. McGrath, A. Conti; 2nd April - M. Williams, B. Ryan

25/26 March	READERS	OFFERTORY	SPECIAL MINISTERS	ALTAR HELPERS
6:30 pm	L. Donnelly F. Smullen	Dowling Family	S. Richards F. Dowling T. Tumua	D. Sandilands J. Buttigieg
10 am	R. Wingrave T. Dumaresq	Rosemary Wingrave	M. Lee M. Hogarty (RP/G1) K. Treacy (RP/G2)	D. Sandilands J. Buttigieg
1/2 April				
6:30 pm	I. Tumua-Valoia K. Murphy	J. Buttigieg	L. Turk M. Janke E. Janke	Irene Tumua Valoia & Family
10 am	B. Pye E. Macdonald	Sharon Ralph & Famiyl	A. Butts I. Raleigh (RP/G1) M. Murphy (RP/G2)	Irene Tumua Valoia & Family



WELCOME TO St Mary's Parish

2 TOOLAMBA ROAD (PO BOX 365) MOORoopNA VIC 3629
PH: 5825 2034

Parish Priest: Mons Peter Jeffrey Email address: mons.peterj@bigpond.com
Parish Secretary: Diane Teitzel Email address: mooroopna@cdos.org.au
Parish Office Hours: Wed, Thurs, Fri 9am - 1pm
Website: www3.smmooroopna.catholic.edu.au/parish

Fourth Sunday in Lent

26th March 2017



Lenten Focus: Almsgiving

The third Lenten discipline read on Ash Wednesday was Almsgiving or giving to the poor. It is linked to fasting and follows the call of the prophets for justice and charity for the needy. There are many worthy people and causes to support. Donors do not like cheats. St Francis of Assisi, poor himself, gave to the poor, knowing it is better to err on judgement than to deny the genuine poor. Trusted aid agencies like Caritas, Project Compassion, and Red Cross rely on volunteers, international sister agencies and partners to ensure the bulk on donations are rightly and justly delivered in helping others.

Quote for the Week

"Create a clean heart in me,
O Lord, give back to me
the joy of your salvation."
Gospel Acclamation, Tuesday)

© Diocese of Sandhurst 2017

Looking at the Readings

Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him. By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ? © Dianne Bergant CSS

Pope Francis on Lent

The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to make a good preparation for the approach of Easter. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that "we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it" (1 Tim 6:7). (Lenten Pastoral 2017 para 3)

On the Lighter Side

At a cathedral door a beggar always stretched out his hand, pleading for alms. One day he stretched out both of his hands. A man asked him: "All these days, you were stretching out only one hand—why are you today stretching out two hands?" The beggar replied: "Praise God! Business was so good that I opened another branch!"



ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

**“Reaching out to each other
- growing together in love”**

**Remember the Aboriginal people
who have walked this land
for thousands of years.**

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm at St Mary's

Sunday: 10am at St Mary's

**Sunday: 8.30am at St Joseph's, Undera
(Monthly Mass - 3rd Sunday of the month)**

RECONCILIATION

10.30—11am at St Mary's

WEEK-DAY MASS TIMES

**TUESDAY 28th MARCH CHRISTIAN MEDITATION
8.50am - 9.10am 3/4 AB ALL WELCOME**

- ♦ Tuesday 28th March - 6pm Mass
- ♦ Wednesday 29th March - 6pm Mass
- ♦ Thurs 30th March - 6pm Mass
- ♦ Friday 31st March - 10am Mass

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
THURSDAY 5th APRIL 6pm
Mass to follow**



EASTER TRIDUM 2017

St Mary's, Mooroopna

13th April HOLY THURSDAY - 7.30pm

14th April GOOD FRIDAY - 3pm

15th April EASTER SAT(Vigil) 7.30pm

16th April EASTER SUNDAY – 10am

St Joseph's, Undera

16th April EASTER SUNDAY – 8.30am

AVAILABILITY AT EASTER TO DO READINGS, OFFERTORY AND SPECIAL MINISTER

Please indicate on the A3 sheet provided on the table in the porch area, whether you will be **AVAILABLE AT EASTER** to **HELP** with these Ministries at the **Holy Thursday (7.30pm), Good Friday (3pm), Easter Vigil (7.30pm) and/or Easter Sunday (10am) Liturgies.** This would assist us greatly with planning.

PARISH NEWS

Working Bee: THANK YOU to EVERYONE who came along and gave of their time last Sunday to help clear up a lot of rubbish on St Mary's property (cnr Echuca Road and Knight Street, Mooroopna).

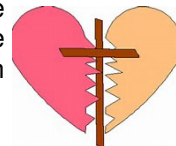
In particular a big **THANK YOU** to Yopie Turk who has spent hours working hard on tidying up both Knight Street and MacIsaac Properties. Also **THANK YOU** to Bill Gooiker who provided a lot of machinery that enabled the work to be done so efficiently.

Church Powerpoint: THANK YOU to the parishioners who have agreed to learn how to operate the Easy Worship during weekend Masses. A training time will be set in the near future. We ask that everyone exercises patience with our new operators as they endeavour to learn new skills and assist in sharing the load which for so long now has been left to just a few people in the parish.

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

During this weekend's Mass we welcome all the families who are part of the Sacramental Programme.

The four (4) weeks of home groups have been completed and this weekend the children present their completed STEPS in FAITH Booklets to Monsignor Jeffrey.



We **THANK** those families who opened their homes to others in their groups during this journey and also **THANK** the parents who facilitated the groups.

**WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH
Sacrament of Reconciliation
St Mary's Church at 7pm.**

LENTEN RESOURCE

Below is a link to a Lenten Resource that has been distributed through Pathways Religious Catholic Leaders. The grid lists an activity for each day of Lent

<http://www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org.au/index.php/document-downloads/justice-network/117-download-the-coloured-2017-lenten-carbon-fast-calendar/file>



**Fourth Sunday in Lent
26th March 2017**



“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.”.

1 Samuel 16:7

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talents and treasure here on earth.

THE SANCTITY OF WORK

Our lives nowadays are so filled with activities, it's easy to forget about how God is always with us.

“Either we learn to find our Lord in ordinary, everyday life, or else we shall never find Him.”

~ Conversations with Msgr. Josemaria Escriva, #114

Below is point No. 2 to be explored to find God in your ordinary life and to sanctify yourself through your work.

2. Most important meeting of the day (personal prayer time, planning the day with God)

While you're planning your day., ask God to help you choose the top three things you'd like to accomplish. Offer your work as a gift to God. Ask him to help do your work to the best of your ability. So "you can be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect."

*Let us work a lot and work well, without forgetting that prayer is our best weapon.
That is why I will never tire of repeating that we have to be contemplative souls in the midst of
the world, who try to convert their work into prayer.*



4th SUNDAY in LENT - 26th MARCH 2017

In Vietnam, young Nguyet was isolated as a result of her severe disabilities, until a Caritas-Australia supported program offered her education, creative outlets and community interaction.



**Please donate to Project
Compassion 2017**

ANYWAY

People are unreasonable,
illogical and self-centered,
LOVE THEM ANYWAY

If you do good, people
will accuse you of selfish
ulterior motives,
DO GOOD ANYWAY

If you are successful, you win
false friends and true enemies,
SUCCEED ANYWAY

The good you do will
be forgotten tomorrow,
DO GOOD ANYWAY

Honesty and frankness
make you vulnerable,
**BE HONEST AND
FRANK ANYWAY**

What you spent years building
may be destroyed overnight,
BUILD ANYWAY

People really need help but
may attack you if you help them,
HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY

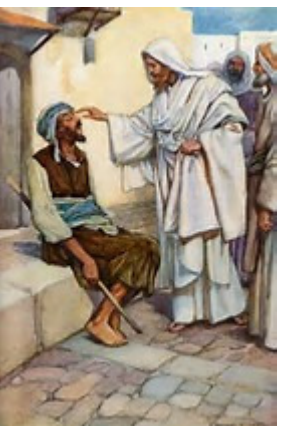
Give the world the best you have
and you'll get kicked in the teeth,
**GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST
YOU'VE GOT ANYWAY**

From a Sign on the wall of Shishu
Bhavan – The Children's Home in Calcutta

REFLECTION FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Today we take a breath and celebrate Laetare Sunday — a day of hope, when Easter is at last within sight. We pause to look back on our Lenten journey and to refocus on the road ahead. It seems appropriate that John's story of the man born blind is the reading for this Sunday. This move from blindness (darkness) to sight (light) is the metaphor for the transformation of character that happens as a result of commitment to Christ. Are our eyes still on Easter?

This reading is a strong and powerful message for our times where so many of our neighbours have experienced circumstances not of their making and are in need of a helping hand. In our Project Compassion story this week, we meet Nguyet from Vietnam, a young woman with a severe disability. As is the case in many countries, people like Nguyet 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.



As Jesus turned his gaze to the man born blind, may we refuse to avert our gaze from those who most need acceptance, love and support. Together with Caritas Australia's partner agency Catholic Relief Services, may we be ignited by the promise of enlivened hope for Nguyet and her community.

2017 Maria Forde Ireland Tour

Parish individuals and groups are invited to register their interest. The tour group is limited to 20. Tour dates are September 16-30th, 2017. Contact: 0411158593

*Who is Maria Forde? I am a liturgist, a teacher of
Secondary Catholic Education and currently a Catholic
Chaplain working in a Youth Justice facility. I am also a
musician and proud Irish Australian.*