

Catholic Parish of Blackiriars



Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



Issue 17
19th March 2023
Year A

VERITAS



Fourth Sunday of Lent

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest

Fr Mannes Tellis OP
(To contact Please Text)
0414 396 532

Dominican in residence
Br Francis McKinnon OP

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Phillip Avenue &
Antill Street, Watson ACT

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Office Hours -
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9am to 12.30pm

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Mass Times

Monday - NO Mass

Tuesday & Thursday
8.00am

Wednesday & Friday
5:30pm

Saturday - 9:00am
Vigil - 5:pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am,
5:00pm

Reconciliation

Saturday
4pm - 4.45pm

Adoration - Holy Hour

Friday's 6pm - 7pm

Pray the Rosary

Before 10am Mass on Sundays



Parish meeting regarding Renewal and Consolidation of Mass Times

Dear Friends,

Pursuant to my recent letter regarding consolidation of Mass Times I am convoking a meeting for **Thursday 30th March 2023 at 7pm in the Parish Centre**. The evening will include the following:

1. An address by the Chancellor of the Diocese regarding arrangements for 2024 (this is contingent on their availability)
2. A brief presentation on parish renewal and our vision for the future of the parish
3. A presentation on Mass Times elaborating on the letter from Fr Mannes

I do hope that you would make time for this gathering so that we can discuss as a parish our concerns and our hopes for the future.

God bless. Fr Mannes OP

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Is 66: 10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING

First reading - 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

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 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.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 22(23)

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.

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.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

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.

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

SECOND READING

Second reading - Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light

Cont...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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel Acclamation - John 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

Gospel - John 9:1-41

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

*'As long as the day lasts
I must carry out the work of the one
who sent me; the night will soon be
here when no one can work.
As long as I am in the world
I am the light of the world.'*

Having said this, 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.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

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. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son - who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he

Cont...is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' '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 judgement
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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Communion Antiphon is NOT recited when hymns are sung.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

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I HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT

Last week we saw the theme of water as a symbol with the woman at the well. The water provided a variety of meanings for us, life, wisdom, and baptism. This week the theme is light, or being able to see the light because we've been enlightened. Water and light will make dramatic appearances at our



Cont...final destination, the Easter vigil.

But for the meantime, this narrative of the man born blind is a remarkable story because it charts, very much like the woman at the well, a growth in faith and finally a recognition of Jesus' identity. For the woman it was water that drew her in, for this blind man it is the ability to truly see, not just the mundane but the divine. An en-lightenment.

The scene is set by an encounter with the blind man. His blindness is thought to have been caused by sin, committed either by his parents or himself. This rationale, somewhat karmic in character or perhaps just downright superstitious, held that evil actions begot evil effects. Jesus will have none of this. Rather, in this particular instance, this man's blindness is not caused by anything, it was simply permitted by God like any other evil.

This situation gives rise to that old chestnut of the Problem of Evil, a conundrum which at its heart seeks to do away with the kind of God we as Christians take for granted. The atheist points to the blind man and retorts 'so much for your loving God! How could he let this happen?' And rightly so, it is a fair assessment to make. How do we reconcile God's benevolence with the apparent permission of evil to seemingly flourish? Whilst this scenario seems completely baffling to us, it is not from God's side of the ledger. If we hold it is indeed God's creation and the universe is directed and sustained by his loving Providence is it not plausible to believe God has his reasons for permitting such things? First of all who are we to dictate to God how he should run his creation? Secondly, we arrogate to ourselves that we somehow should be privy to God's mind! Is God accountable to us?

For this particular instance God's providence determined that this man would become a sign so that people could see who Jesus is. The physical blindness of the man is a strong metaphor for the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees and Jesus' opponents. By opening the man's eyes the only response is to seek out and determine who Jesus is. Jesus by his own admission describes himself in the following way:

*As long as I am in the world
I am the light of the world.'*

The reply the Blind man gives to the Pharisees on his second unfortunate encounter with those religious professionals is interesting. The Pharisees badger the now healed man squeezing him for more information regarding his healing, St John narrates:

the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man (Jesus) is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?'

Clearly the Pharisees are intrigued by what had occurred and the blind man calls their bluff, retorting "you seem awfully interested in this guy, do you want to follow him?" Whether this statement was said naively, or with impish wit, I'm not sure, but it would seem the key issue is, who is really blind here, who has seen the light? Furthermore St John uses a variety of "sense" verbs "you wouldn't listen" and "why do you want to hear it all again?" John is surreptitiously inferring that the Pharisees are not only spiritually blind, but deaf too!

The healing of the Blind man then encapsulates the theme of enlightenment. When we clear away those

Cont...obstacles or let Jesus clear those obstacles away for us, then we can truly see who Jesus is, and in doing so act like the Blind man who confesses his faith in Jesus:

'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',

This man truly...saw the light!

God love you all. You're all in my prayers.
Fr Mannes OP

A LATE HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY 17TH MARCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - 21 MARCH CONGRATULATIONS ON TURNING 100 YEARS



To Sr Veronica
God bless you
for the love and concern with
which you ministered to all those
who over the years were
entrusted to your care.
May your life be filled with
God's good gifts, abundant
joy and heaven's peace.
Happy Birthday!

ST DOMINIC'S GARDEN A TASTE OF VIETNAM

A Taste of Vietnam Feast on Saturday evening 25th of March at the Parish Centre. Cost is \$20 per person for food, coffee/tea and desserts. BYO drinks. Entry from 6pm by **pre-purchased tickets** on sale after Mass or through Jacquie Cortese. Come and enjoy the fare and great company. Al Fresco option will be available for those who want to dine outdoors.

Easter Raffle tickets to finish the garden will be available after Masses or contact the office.

BAPTISM

*Sebastian Rattenbury
Tyler Auld*

will be baptised this weekend.
May their lives be filled with God's peace,
and their heart with God's love...
on this Baptism day and always.



DONATIONS TO PARISH & PRIESTS

Parish details to contribute to the Planned Giving.
Bank details – Account Name: Blackfriars Parish Watson
BSB: 062786 - A/C : 000013341 - Reference: Name

Priests details to contribute to the First Collection.
Details – Account Name: Dominican Fathers Watson
BSB: 083 347 Account number: 97 310 5044
Reference: Your Name - Donation

**DONATIONS TO ST DOMINIC'S GARDEN
CAN BE MADE USING THE
PARISH BANKING DETAILS
BANK DETAILS - REFERENCE GARDEN**

PROJECT COMPASSION

PLEASE RETURN Project Compassion Boxes and Share Packs to the Office or Sacristy by Palm Sunday.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Easter Offering Envelopes are available in the racks near the Holy Water fonts.

PRAYERS

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill:

Mary Martin, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Mimma Gia, Philip Bailey, Veronica Cornelly, Rosa Maria Santos, Peter Catlin, Beth Delos Santos, Ursula Ramsay, Sue King, Fr Ellis Clifford, Joe Schimizzi, June Pollard, Awny El-Ghitany, Pamela Sandy, Elizabeth Webster, Una Ford, Terry Stephens, Maureen Blood, Una Bell, Lily Copeland, Neville Caulfield, Maggie McKeon, Michelle Brotohusodo, Carmel Slammon, Katey Tuite, Nola Nolan, Brian & Suzanne Brown,
Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

IN LOVING MEMORY

Evelyn Roque

PRAY THE ROSARY Sunday Mornings prior to 10.00am Mass the Rosary will be recited. Please join in.

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on Wednesdays. Contact the office for details.

DOMINICAN LIBRARY will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on Thursday evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or www.wccm.org

WEEKLY READER FORMATION - Formation sessions are on Wednesday evenings. These sessions provide reflection on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. All parishioners are invited. – Meet in the church Office.

HOLY ROSARY WOMEN'S FAITH CIRCLE The Holy Rosary Women's Faith Circle returns on Thursdays. Please join us as we share life, break open the word, pray for and with each other. Contact Emily at emilykathrynhall@gmail.com for further information.

VERBUM BIBLE STUDY FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-35

We are starting up a new series of bible studies on **Tuesday 28th February**. Topics will include:

- St Matthew's Gospel
- The Eucharist in Scripture

Please join us at 7pm in the Parish Centre. We hope to run the bible studies throughout the year.

ROSTER 25 / 26

Saturday 5.00pm - Acolyte - M. Tran
Reader - K. Markcrow
Computer - Volunteer required

Sunday 8.00am - Acolyte - K. Linard
Reader - Webb Family

Sunday 10.00am - Acolyte - L. Kim
Reader - A. McCarthy,
C. Rheinberger
Computer - J. Kim

Sunday 5.00pm - Acolyte - S. Sedgwick
Reader - T. de Luca
Computer - T. Malone