



Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 18
26th March 2017

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers

Year A



VERITAS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest
Fr Kieran Adams OP

Assistant Priests
Fr Rafael Cabezón OP
Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Phillip Avenue and
Antill Street, Watson ACT
Postal Address
PO Box 900, Dickson
Ph. 6248 5925 Ph. 6248 5085
Fax 6248 7564
Email: watson@cg.org.au

Office Staff
Jacquie Cortese
Jim Smith

Parish Council
Andrew Blakey

Office Hours
**Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday**
9.00am—12.30pm

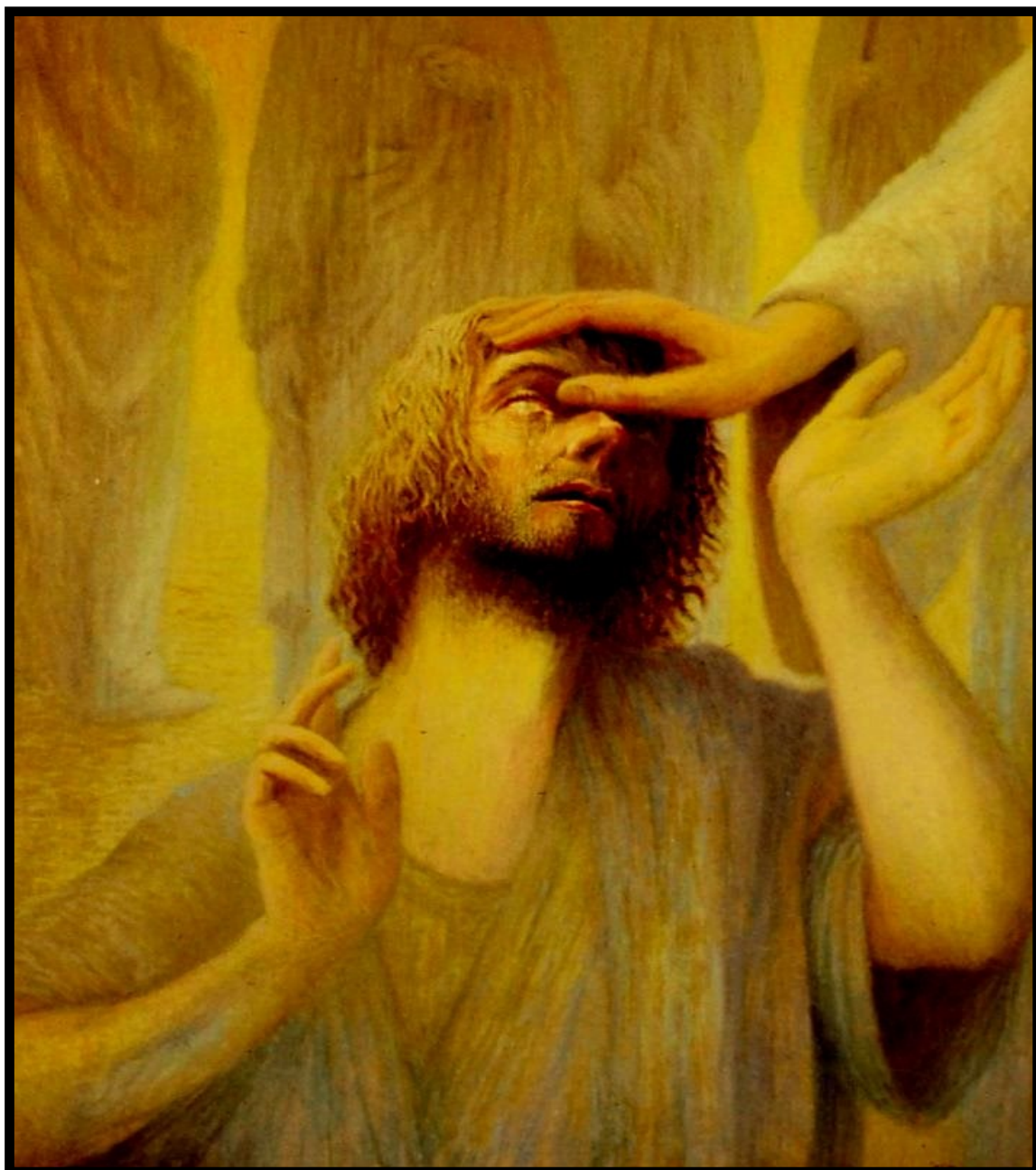
Mass times
Wed 5.30pm
Tues & Thurs 6.45am
Fri 5.30pm
Saturday 6pm (Vigil)
Sunday 8am, 10am & 6pm
Saturday & Public
Holidays Mass excluding
Mondays 9am

Pray the Rosary
Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass
Saturday after 9am Mass

Reconciliation
Saturday 12pm—12.30pm
and 5pm—5.30pm

ACU Chapel Signadou
Tues 1.30pm
Wed & Thurs 1.30pm

**If you are in Urgent need of
a Priest Call - 6248 8253**



MAN BORN BLIND

A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

ENTRANCE	Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	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!
COMMUNION	The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.
READINGS	1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 Gospel: John 9:1-41

PSALM: 22

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.

LENTEN GROUP

Parish Lenten Group, will meet each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre throughout Lent.

MAKE EASTER MORE MEANINGFUL! SING THE LITURGIES!

Come join the parish choir
and enrich your Easter.
No musical experience
necessary. There will be
just four practices in the
church on the following
Monday evenings at 7.30 pm: 20 & 27 March, 3 &
10 April. Enquiries: M Robinson 61617100



Holy Week timetables are now available don't
forget to pick up your copy from the exit tables.

HOLY WEEK / EASTER ROSTER

The Rosters are now in the foyer for parishioners who
would like to volunteer over Holy Week/ Easter Liturgies.
Special help is needed after Holy Thursday and on Holy
Saturday morning.

CHRISM MASS



Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of
the Archdiocese on Monday 10th April
7.30pm in St Christopher's Cathedral,
this most important Holy Week
ceremony. It is this mass that the **Holy
Oils** used in the various Sacramental Rites
of the Church are blessed and
consecrated. Everyone welcome.

THE BLIND MAN WHO WANTED FOR NOTHING

The Psalm says, "The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want."
But the Gospel Reading tells the story of a man born blind. How is the Psalm
supposed to be made consonant with the Gospel Reading? Doesn't the man
born blind have something that he lacks?
The disciples of Jesus are anxious about this blind man too, and they try to allay
their anxiety by finding some explanation for his blindness. "Why was this man
born blind?" they ask Jesus. "Did this man sin or was it his parents?" If it
was *anybody's* sin, then they can reasonably hope that such suffering won't
come to their families, at least if they all try hard not to sin.
But this is an appalling way to think about suffering, isn't it? It is terrible to sup-
pose that all suffering is punishment for sin. What kind of God inflicts blindness
on a newborn as a punishment for sin?
Jesus dismisses their attitude entirely. This man's blindness has nothing to do
with the sins of anyone, Jesus says. It's something about the future, not some-
thing about the past, that explains his blindness. God let this man be born blind
that the works of God might be manifest through him.
But Jesus' explanation looks at least as bad as the thought of the disciples,
doesn't it? What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn so that the works
of God can be manifest in him later?
But think about that blind man himself.
At the outset of the story, he is an impoverished, outcast nobody of a beg-
gar. Then the mighty works of God are manifest in him, and he takes the Lord
as his Shepherd. The result is that he himself becomes glorious. When the story
ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage. He has stood up to the
worldly power of the leaders of his community and witnessed to the goodness of
God in very challenging circumstances. He has become an example to us all.
Who would not want to be like him?
And that is why it was true for him that the Lord was his shepherd, even though
he was born blind. In the end, the Lord was his Shepherd, and there was noth-
ing the blind man lacked, just as the Psalmist says.

Eleonore Stump <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

SECURITY OF CHURCH/PARISH CENTRE

During the week when the Office is open the door adjacent to the toilets is
left open so those wishing to pay a visit can do so. If you are visiting the
Church during Office hours please enter and leave by that door. Under no
circumstances open any other doors to leave the church.

ELECTRICAL WORK

On Saturday, 8 April, the power to the Church will be cut off and replaced by
a generator while a new meter box is installed for the Church. Cables from
the generator will pass through the doorway closest to the toilets and then
through the Foyer to the Switch Board inside the Church. Parishioners at-
tending 9.00am Mass and midday Confessions should take special care
when entering/leaving the Church via the Foyer/door adjacent to the toilets.

"Executive Assistant" - ACBC

Catholic Health Australia is seeking a highly skilled and motivated Executive
Assistant to the CEO. For information on this rewarding full-time position please
contact Siobhan Tanzer on 02 6203 2777 or siobhant@cha.org.au.

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy;
they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

Marcel Proust

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

Elizabeth Cronin, Maureen Blood,
Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine,
Edith Jensen, Alexia Harris,
Chris Dillon, Joe Schimizzi,
Trevor Dennis, Mary Harrigan,
Elizabeth Webster, Philip Bailey,
Eileen Liston, Rosa Maria Santos
Jim Burgess, Colin Jarrett,
Mary Bui, Michael O'Callaghan,
Rosemary Denmead

**Please remember
our deceased:**

Domenica Cortese,
Jenny Naughton,
Margaret Nenke

In Loving Memory:

Noel Dawes, Rosetta De Bortoli

BAPTISM

*Mae Juliana Passfield
Eda Ann Foreman*

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



With Limited support in Vietnam for the education and social inclusion of children with disabilities, young Nguyet lived an isolated life. Then, through a neighbour, her family became involved with a Caritas -Australia supported program offering her education, creative outlets and community interaction, and strengthening her parents' skills and support networks. Now Nguyet's mother has great hope for her future.

Please donate to Project Compassion .



THANK YOU

Jacquie and family of Domenica Cortese wish to convey our sincere thanks for parishioners condolences and deeply appreciate the generous help with her funeral.

SINCERE THANKS

Neil Naughton has been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many parishioners since Jenny's death.
A sincere thank you to all.

HEALED

First, I want you to notice two or three facts about this man. Although we never know his name, he apparently was someone known to the people of the community in Jerusalem. He didn't approach Jesus. Nobody brought him to Jesus. He didn't ask to be healed. All of his life he had lived in darkness. He was blind from birth, and he had no idea what it meant to see. His physical condition was every bit as hopeless as if he had no eyes, no hands, no arms at all. He was a beggar. He was supported by the generosity of other people. As one reads the entire story, it is evident that the man was intelligent. He was able, he was a logical thinker, and he was a skilled communicator, but he really had no hope of ever seeing. Two things happened to him in the course of this chapter. He was healed physically, and then, after going through an incredible gauntlet of challenges, he was healed spiritually as well.

WHY DO WE SUFFER?

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday).

Fr Peter Hunter OP

reflects upon the nature of suffering.

There is something deeply mysterious about suffering. One thing is certain: ultimately, God does not want suffering for us. In Heaven, every tear will be wiped away, and when God came among us as a man, he relieved suffering. So why do we still suffer?

One possibility is that suffering is a punishment, but Jesus in today's Gospel makes it clear that at least in the case of this man born blind, that is not so. And of course, Jesus himself will suffer and die, and yes, as a punishment, but not a divine punishment but a human one. Those who crucify Christ are not executing the divine will. Indeed, Jesus prays for their forgiveness. When we think about it, in the world we've made, it's often the innocent who suffer the most.

So if God does not ultimately want suffering for us, but the joys of Heaven, why does He allow us to suffer? Jesus gives a reason in the case of the man born blind, namely that his being cured of his blindness is so that the works of God might be shown in him. I think it's important to see that Jesus is not just talking about the physical cure, which is an important result of Jesus' actions, but not the most important. As so often in the gospels, sight is a sign of faith, and the more important consequence of this whole event is that the man comes to faith in Jesus.

A great part of the way this event is told us by St John is to show us the contrast between the faith of the man, and the blindness of the Pharisees. They refuse to believe the man. They refuse to believe the evidence before them. They are blind to the works of God, even though the Jewish Scriptures ought to have prepared them for the coming of the Messiah, who would open the eyes of the blind.

It seems to me that an awful lot of the time, we too are blind to the works of God. Or we can be. God is doing remarkable things in our own lives, bringing us to faith, feeding us with His Word and with His very body. And yet I suspect we all find ourselves disappointed. Couldn't God do more? Couldn't He give me a clearer sign? Why does He not resolve the trouble in my life? Is God somehow punishing me?

Part of the mystery about suffering is that it is deeply connected to love. Ask yourself: is suffering good? Well, not in itself. Of course it isn't. But would you prefer not to suffer? That's a harder question, because suffering is the natural reaction to having lost something or someone that I love. To prefer not to suffer, in a life marked by loss (as all our lives are in this world), is to prefer not to love. So suffering isn't good in itself, but the alternative would be a stony-hearted indifference.

Some of our suffering comes from a foolish attachment to things that are not important. We suffer when we break a treasured possession or have something stolen, and that might make us realise the unhealthy extent to which the things in our lives possess us, rather than us possessing them. But equally, sometimes we suffer, truly and deeply, because of the loss of something, or more usually someone, who is precious to us.

I think even those losses can show us the works of God in our own lives. They can make us aware of the love that God has sown in our hearts. Suffering can call us to forgive. It can make us humble and aware of our dependence on the love of God. We can be blinded by our pain, but equally, it can open our eyes to what ought to have been clear all along.

Probably the deepest part of the mystery of suffering is that when God became a human being, He did not shrink from suffering, but took it upon Himself. God doesn't just know our suffering by loving us in our suffering. He knows it from the inside, as it were. And by taking on suffering, He has brought us victory over it, not by giving us a stony-hearted indifference, but by giving us a love which can overcome every loss.

<http://english.op.org/torch>

LITURGY OF HEALING WITH THE ARCHBISHOP

Gathering for an appropriate Liturgy of Healing and Lament at the Cathedral, just before Holy Week. It is on Tuesday evening (7.30pm), 4th April.

EVENTS

ROSARY Pray the Rosary will be held the First Saturday of every month at 4pm in the Church on a trial basis. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Letty on 0418 518 033

18 March - 26 March, 10 - 4pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS EXHIBITION at the Chapel of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture Barton. The Stations of the Cross exhibition, takes the original story of Jesus walk along the Via Delorosa from his being sentenced to death, to his crucifixion and then resurrection.

22 March - Healing Mass (Anointing Mass) 10.30am St Brigid's Church, Dickson. Morning Tea to follow, please bring a plate.

Year of Youth 2018 - The Catholic Bishops of Australia extend an invitation to Catholics across the country to join in celebrating a Year of Youth from the beginning of Advent to the end of 2018. The theme is, 'Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment'. The emphasis is on local discussion and dialogue in parishes, schools, youth groups and dioceses. Information is available at, www.youth.catholic.org.au

25 March "Legion of Mary - Annual Consecration to Our Lady" All auxiliaries, former members and interested parishioners are invited to the Annual Consecration to Our Lady (Acies) at St Joseph Church, O'Connor at 10:30am. The Legion prayers and Mass at church, followed by lunch at the parish hall. For more information / RSVP Jacqueline Donohue 62513950 or reply to LegionOfMaryCanberraGoulburn@gmail.com

26 March - Amicus, a support group for widowed, divorced and separated Catholics will be holding its next gathering at 2.45pm for MV Southern Cross 3pm lake cruise followed by twilight dinner at Snapper on the Lake. Contact Patricia: 0412 351 548.

29 - March "Safe Schools Information Session for Parents" Information session for parents, grandparents and adult citizens regarding the government funded 'Safe Schools' sex education program which is being widely promoted in Australian schools will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Parish Hall 7.30pm.

2 - April "RISE Youth Mass and Youth Rally" The RISE Youth Mass and Rally will be held at St Raphael's Catholic Church, Queanbeyan. RISE seeks to gather young people from across the Archdiocese to celebrate their faith and be encouraged to participate in the life of the Church. For further information contact Huw Warmenhoven: huw.warmenhoven@cg.org.au

1 April—Knights of the Southern Cross Canberra Branch (KSC) will hold their **next meeting** from 11.00am – 1.00pm on **Saturday, 1 April**, in the Parish Centre behind the St Benedict's Church, Narabundah. See the KSC website www.ksca.org.au for further information. **All Catholic men are invited.** Contact Bob Perkins on 6247 2977 or Doug Gaudencio 6169 6866."

19 April - EVENINGS FOR THE ENGAGED, a five-week marriage preparation course will be held every Wednesday, 19th April to 17th May 2017, at 6.30 pm. Enquiries to Kathy and Mark Haseler, 6166 7634.

IMPORTANT

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings and Baptisms.

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than Tuesday of that week. For all other bookings Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. two weeks notice is required. It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office. Fr Kieran

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL OF RELIGION Sunday A year long Faith Education Program including Sacraments for children who do not attend Catholic Schools. Term has now begun. Contact the Parish Office.

BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore today at www.wccm.org

CARDS Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

CARE OF THE SICK If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. Also, if someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

COFFEE GROUP Our monthly coffee group will meet at Wilbur's, Hackett on the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, and newcomers most welcome.

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

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

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP Divine Will Prayer Group meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

WEEKLY READER FORMATION Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

COELIACS Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

PLEASE NOTE: We have been advised that there are people visiting local churches asking for money. If you are approached by anyone asking for money please do not provide any but refer the person to Samaritan House, 19 Hackett Place, Hackett

NEW PARISHIONERS would you like to join our Parish? If you wish to register as Blackfriars Parishioner please fill out a card which you can find on the entrance tables and place on the second plate or give the card to Father.

Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seating areas by using T-switch on your hearing aid.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacque in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: holyr.watson@cg.catholic.org.au

ROSTERS 1 / 2 April 2017

Saturday 6.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	M. Tran	
Readers	M. Pentony	J. de Riva O'Phelan
Presentation of Gifts	Tran Family	
EMOE	C. Lewis	

Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	N. McGahey	
Readers	B. Bandle	C. Bandle
Presentation of Gifts	M. Falk	
EMOE	E. Smith	

Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	L. Kim	
Readers	L. Fardell	A. O'Donnell
Presentation of Gifts	B. Affas	
EMOE	J. Munro	R. Zochling

Sunday 6.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server		
Readers	M. Proctor	
Presentation of Gifts	Volunteer	
EMOE	J. Curnow	V. Van der Sanden
Counters	F. Higgins	