

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PARISH, MORUYA

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - 'LAETARE SUNDAY'

YEAR A | 15 MARCH 2026

ONCE I WAS BLIND, NOW I SEE: A LENTEN REFLECTION

A WEEKLY LETTER FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday calls us to rejoice and praise the Lord. Known as Laetare Sunday, it is a moment of light and joy in the midst of our Lenten journey—a pause to remind us why we walk this path: to encounter Christ more deeply and to be renewed in hope. The entrance antiphon invites us: “Rejoice, Jerusalem,” lifting our hearts to God with gratitude and praise. The Gospel brings this joy to life through the healing of the man born blind. In this encounter, Jesus brings light where there was darkness, sight where there was blindness, and hope where there had long been limitation. This miracle is not only about physical sight—it is about spiritual vision. It shows us who Jesus truly is: the Light of the world, who desires to bring fullness of life, freedom, and truth into each of our lives. Like the man who emerges from darkness into light, we too are called to open our hearts to Christ, trusting in his power to heal, restore, and guide us. Laetare Sunday reminds us that even in seasons of struggle, discipline, or uncertainty, God’s grace is at work. Lent is not meant to burden us, but to open our eyes—helping us to see ourselves, others, and God with new clarity. Even if we do not have all the answers, we can echo the words of the healed man: “Once I was blind, and now I see.”

Today, we rejoice in the light Christ brings into our lives: the gift of faith, moments of clarity, forgiveness received, and love shared. We celebrate not because life is perfect, but because Christ is present and active among us, breaking into our darkness and renewing our hope.

As we journey closer to Easter, may this Laetare Sunday refresh your spirit. Let it inspire you to lift your heart in praise, to trust in Christ’s healing light, and to move forward with joy, confidence, and the certainty that God is always doing something new in your life.

Many blessings,

Father Josh



SUNDAY MASS TIMES

SACRED HEART, MORUYA
36 QUEEN STREET, MORUYA

SAT VIGIL 5.00 PM Mass
SUN 10.00 AM Mass

'THE PINES', TUROSS HEAD
36 CRADDOCK RD, TUROSS HEAD

SUN 8.00 AM Mass

'ST. EDMUND'S, BODALLA
162 PRINCES HWY, BODALLA

4th SUN 12.00 PM Mass

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

TUE-THURS 5.00 PM Mass
FRI 9:15 am

'ST. EDMUND'S, BODALLA
162 PRINCES HWY, BODALLA

2ND FRI 9.00 AM Mass

SYRO MALABAR MASS

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

1ST MON 6.00 PM

CONFESSIONS

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

TUES - THURS After Mass
SAT 4.30 PM

ADORATION

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

TUES & THURS After Mass

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

FIRST SAT 9.00 AM Mass
OR BY APPOINTMENT

DEVOTIONS

SACRED HEART, MORUYA

ROSARY

DAILY Before Mass

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRI After Mass

PARISH SCHOOLS**ST. MARY'S PRIMARY,
MORUYA****JOHANNA WAIN**
PRINCIPAL

Ph: (02) 4474 2817

**'In all things may
God be glorified'****CARROLL COLLEGE,
BROULEE****ANDREW KENNEALLY**
PRINCIPAL

Ph: (02) 4471 5600

**'Learning for Life'****PARISH GROUPS****ST. VINCENT DE PAUL,
MORUYA**37 Queen Street, Moruya
Ph: 02 6234 7404**CARING GROUPS
TUROSS HEAD**

Mob: 0497 315 534

MORUYAPlease contact
the Parish Office**WEEKLY LITURGICAL
CALENDAR****Mon 16th**—4th Week of Lent**Tues 17th**— St. Patrick**Wed 18th**— St. Cyril of Jerus.**Thurs 19th**—St. Joseph**Fri 20th**— 4th Week of Lent**Sat 21st** — 4th Week of Lent**PARISH WORKING BEE**

Help prepare our parish for Easter! Join us on **Saturday 21 March from 10:00am** as we work together to spruce up the church. There will be two teams: one inside for a spring clean of the church, and one outside to tidy the grounds. If you can, please bring along your gardening tools or cleaning gear. We'll finish with a BBQ lunch at 12:30pm. For more information, please contact Fr. Josh at the Parish Office. Everyone is welcome!

**CONGRATULATIONS FR. JOSH:**

This week Fr. Josh celebrates the 21st anniversary of becoming a Catholic. We give thanks to God for the grace of his journey of faith and for the generous priestly ministry he now offers to the Church. Please keep Fr. Josh in your prayers as he continues to serve the Lord and His people. *Ad multos annos!* 🙏



- **NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY:** As Fr. Josh is going to the Yr 12 Camp in Jindabyne there will be no Mass on Wednesday. There will however be Adoration in its place. Please pray for our Yr 12 Students and school staff at this time.

- **SOLEMNITY OF ST. PATRICK:** 5pm Mass. Followed by Adoration and Confessions.
- **SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH:** 5pm Mass. Followed by Adoration and Confessions.
- **BODALLA MASS NEXT WEEK:** Next Sunday Mass will be celebrated at Bodalla at 12 midday. Feel free to join us for Mass and lunch at the pub afterwards.
- **BAPTISM PREPARATION:** If you would like to have your child baptised please contact the Parish Office.
- **PARISH ASSEMBLY: *Our Parish Assembly will be on Saturday 23rd of May.***

ANTIPHONS FOR MASS**Entrance Antiphon**

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

*Cf Isaiah 66:10-11***Communion Antiphon**

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

*Cf John 9:11,38***Get up! Listen! Go!**

In 2026, Archbishop Christopher Prowse has set "**Get Up! Listen! Go!**" as the Archdiocese's pastoral focus, calling the Church to Encounter, Discipleship, and Mission in evangelisation.

'Cor ad cor loquitur' - 'Heart speaks to heart'
~St. John Henry Newman



Prayer intentions will remain in the bulletin for four weeks.

WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS...

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Clare Broekhuysen, Mary Bolton, John Collins, Greg Thornton, Marlene Moore, Fr. Frank Fuchs, Ian Cheeseman, Barbara Kirk, Marykuty Joseph, Geoffrey Scott.

FOR OUR SICK

For those in Aged care facilities and in Moruya Hospital, for our sick and housebound parishioners, Gerry Ebbelaar, Jan Morris, Christopher Morris, Lee Maat, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Sue and Rod McDonald, Han and Pauline de Grave, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Jenny Hopkins, Patricia Murphy, Paul and Margaret Ryan, Rita and Doug Marion, Sylvia Heffernan, Rae and Peter Fishlock, Michael Irwin, Fr Greg Beath, Deacon Paul and Jo Rummery, Mark Chatto, Norma and Graham Beer.

YOUR MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT A LOT...

First Collection

(Supporting all the priests of the Archdiocese)

A/C Name: Central Presbytery Fund, BSB: 062-786 and Bank Account: 00029248
Reference: Your parish location, name and intention (e.g., Moruya Smith 1st collection)

Second Collection

(Maintenance/upkeep of the Churches, staff salaries, liturgical needs, insurance, etc.)

A/C Name: Sacred Heart, Moruya, BSB: 062-786 and Bank Account:000014984 Reference: Planned Giving # & Surname (current givers) or "Donation" (new givers).

MORUYA ROSTERS

MORUYA ROSTERS						
Readers			Ministers of Holy Communion		Counters	
Mass	14/15 March	21/22 March	14/15 March	21/22 March	16 March	23 March
SAT 5pm	D. Moore M. Joyce	M. Joyce S. Heffernan	T. Cahill	J. Wain	R. Parnell T. Chatto	D. Fee L. O'Connor
SUN 10.am	H. Browne G.Strahlendorf	R. Zammit C. Mackin	G. Campbell			

PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

Parish Safeguarding Commitment: At Sacred Heart Parish, we're deeply committed to creating a safe, respectful, and caring environment for all children and vulnerable people. We believe everyone deserves to be heard, valued, and protected—and we work together with families to make sure their voices are always part of the conversation.

Communicating Concerns: Parishioners are encouraged to raise any concerns by contacting Father Josh or the Parish Office. For matters specifically related to safeguarding, please reach out to our Parish Safeguarding Officers— Louise Strahlendorf, or Peter Hoban—via email at moruya.safeguarding@cg.org.au. Additionally, you may contact Maria Hicks, Manager of the Archdiocesan Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS), at ipss@cg.org.au or by phone on 02 6239 9806.

CONNECT WITH US...

Parish Priest: Fr. Joshua Scott VF
Phone: (02) 4474 0889
Email: joshua.scott@cg.org.au

Parish Secretary: Vickie Moore
Phone: (02) 4474 0889
Email: moruya@cg.org.au
Mail: PO Box 23, Moruya NSW, 2537

Parish Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday—9.00 am - 2.00 pm



For access to our website, online bulletins and other details please see the QR code:

FIRST READING**1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13**

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.

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**Romans 5:1-2. 5-8**

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.

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**Matthew 17:1-9**

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 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.

**"I FEAR NOTHING,
BECAUSE OF THE PROMISES OF HEAVEN;
FOR I HAVE CAST MYSELF INTO THE HANDS
OF ALMIGHTY GOD, WHO REIGNS EVERYWHERE"**

- St. Patrick

