



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



PARISH BULLETIN: Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A, 15 March 2026



PARISH VISION STATEMENT 2004



"Created by God, Loved by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit ... We come together inspired by our patrons, St Mary the Virgin and St Joseph, her husband, to worship, study and serve."

St Mary's Bombala
St Joseph's Delegate
St Peter's Corrowong



PRAYER INTENTIONS

POPES INTENTION MARCH

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



We pray for Pope Leo and his vision. May the Church be like a fountain of living water for all who thirst for meaning and direction.

We pray for all who are disregarded and excluded because of a disability, that their faith in themselves will stay strong and allow them to flourish.

We pray for rural dioceses and country parishes, including our own, that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, finding creative ways to build a vibrant community and proclaim the Gospel with renewed faith and hope.



We pray for those who are sick in our family & community, may they be able to see Christ's presence in their most difficult moments:

Adam Crotty, John Elliott, Christine Cowell
Lorna Thornton, Clive Cottrell
Joyce Crotty, John Liston
Roma Brownlie, Jenny Chaplin
Peter & Joyce Reed, Glad Hurlley
Jim Parkes, Marilyn Holdsworth, Jen Farrell
Patricia Guthrie, Mary Anne Dillon
Terry Perkins, Kath Farrell, Val Perkins
Kim Peisley, Heather Whitby
Peter Hopkins, Marlene Kennedy



PARISH CALENDAR

MON
TUE *Saint Patrick*
WED **Mass Bombala 9.30am**
Delegate MPS 11am
THU **Ecumenical Lenten Prog**
Delegate 2pm
Saint Joseph
FRI
SAT **LW&HC Delegate 5pm**
SUN **LW&HC Bombala 9am**



REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

March Anniversaries

June Beileiter, Keith Brownlie
Lorna Callaway
Archbishop Francis Carroll
Patricia Casey, Una Collins
John Coman, Olga Cotton
Edna Cottrell, Murray Garnock
Terrence Ingram, John Jones
Ruth McKay, Neville Murphy
George Reed, Enid Stewart
Thelma Stewart, Andre Teschke
Rita Thornton, Lawrence Tighe
Don Tindale, Betty Twigg
Myra Walker



**"We have loved them in Life:
Let us not forget them in death."**

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST
Father Mark Croker
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ASSISTANT PRIEST
Fr Daniel Ukpong (Easter)
ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
02 6458 3776
School Principal
Mrs Susan Tighe

PARISH COUNCIL

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Please assist the team by having items in by Wednesday pm.



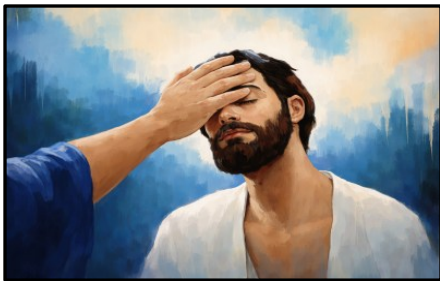
"I most certainly believe that it is the gift of God that I am what I am."

Saint Patrick



A journey with
SAINT MARY
of the Cross
MACKILLOP

May St Joseph watch over us all and may he obtain from the Heart of his foster Son, the grace to live in union and peace.1877.
Mary MacKillop wears a plain black dress as a sign of Religious dedication, 1866.
Sisters restored to their habits, St Ignatius' Church, Norwood, SA, 1872.
First General Chapter. Mary MacKillop elected Superior General, 1875.
New Novitiate opened in Sydney, 1884.



Fourth Sunday of Lent (Theme: Light and New Sight)

Lord Jesus, you opened the eyes of the man born blind and brought him from darkness into light. In this Lenten season, open our hearts so we may truly see your presence in our lives. Help us to walk in your light, to turn away from what keeps us in darkness, and to live as people of faith and hope. May your grace guide us and renew our vision so we may follow you more faithfully each day.

AMEN



FINDING GOD IN OUR WORLD

We pray for attentive hearts during this Lenten season.

May we recognise God's presence in the ordinary moments of our day, and reflect His love through kindness, patience and hope to those around us.

Daily Prayer Intention - We pray the refugees of Gaza sheltered by Caritas Jerusalem. May our generous support for Project Compassion help them endure and recover.

Weekly Prayer Intention - We pray for the indigenous peoples of Australia. May this week's observance of Close the Gap Day (19 March) become a further step towards health equity for everyone.

Prayer of the Faithful



Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer

CELEBRANT/LEADER: Dear friends, called out of darkness into the light of Christ, let us pray for the whole world to be bathed in God's life-giving light.

READER: For the multitude of innocent people trapped in wars not of their making, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan. May they be raised out of the dark abyss of their suffering. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For local Christian communities grounded in their neighbourhoods. May their lively faith and active outreach make them beacons of light for all to see. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For our parish community. May this week's feasts of Saint Patrick (17 March) and Saint Joseph (19 March) be occasions of joy for everyone on their Lenten way. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For all faith-based youth ministers. May they share a common concern to help young people thrive and commit themselves to work closely together. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For the sick among our parish community and for all who have sought our prayers, may they find strength, comfort, and healing. For those who have recently passed from this life and those whose anniversaries we commemorate at this time. May they be lifted to the glory of the Risen Lord and rest in eternal peace. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For Our Lady's intercession for all our needs and especially for the people in war-torn places. We pray **Hail Mary...**

CELEBRANT/LEADER Creator God, you never cease to call us out of darkness into your wonderful light. Deepen our desire this Lent to shed the light of Christ on the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION

FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT – 15 March MANAINI from FIJI

Life in rural Fiji has always been a struggle for 44-year-old Manaini, a mother of six and grandmother of two. The family lived from what they grew, but meals were plain and often lacked nutrition. Store food was too expensive. At night, the village was in darkness, leaving children and the elderly unsafe. Holding back tears, Manaini shared: "The things I worry about the most is my kids' education. The requirements that need to be met are hard for me to achieve with my daily income." Almost one quarter of Fiji's population live in poverty, and rates are higher in rural villages. Any extra income can mean the difference between children completing school, being able to buy medicine, or simply managing daily costs. This is what poverty looks like in rural Fiji – every dollar counts. The nation also faces one of the worst health crises in the Pacific. Diabetes and heart disease are widespread. On average, every eight hours, three people lose a limb to diabetes. Viloki, who works with Caritas Australia's partner FRIEND (Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development), explained: "Fiji has one of the highest rates in the Pacific in terms of non-communicable diseases. That's like 80% of the people here have one or the other form of non-communicable diseases, including diabetes... Every eight hours, there are three amputations." Thanks to your generosity, Manaini joined training with local partner, FRIEND. She learnt food processing skills to transform leftovers from crops like cassava and taro into flour and increase her weekly income. Her family eats healthier meals, and she saves money. With the women's group she bakes cakes and pies to sell for extra income. Seeds from the program gave her a thriving garden, and she makes her own organic fertiliser and pesticides. Solar lights now brighten the village, helping children to study and walk safely. Manaini is proud of what she has achieved. She said, "The project totally changed the life of my family and even the community."



SERVICES

HOLY THURSDAY: Mass Delegate 5pm Bombala 6.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY: Stations of the Cross (Leader)

Bombala 9.30am Delegate 12noon

HOLY SATURDAY: Mass Bombala 5pm LW&HC Delegate 5pm

HYMNS - ONE LICENSE 3642645A

1. A New Heart for a New World Trish Watts, Monica O'Brien

Refrain: Create a new heart, holy Lord,
Beckon our lives through your word, Open our eyes to
your call, United as one for your world. Heighten our
minds to your thoughts, Heal us of pride and of hurt,
May we go forth in your name, We pray our hearts
change.

1. The heart of the cross lowly and poor, calls us on.
Lord, it is you promising hope, promising truth. **R**
2. Restless the hearts who yearn for your peace in this land.
Deepen the dream, justice brings life, justice redeems. **R**

2. Open My Eyes, Lord Jesse Manisuban

1. Open my eyes, Lord, Help me to see Your face
Open my eyes, Lord, Help me to see
2. Open my ears, Lord, Help me to hear Your voice
Open my ears, Lord, Help me to hear
3. Open my heart, Lord, Help me to love like You
Open my heart, Lord, Help me to love
4. I live within you, Deep in your heart, oh, love
I live within you, Rest now in me.

3. Amazing Grace

1. Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see
2. Was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far
And Grace will lead us home

4. Christ Be Our Light Bernadette Farrell

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see. **R**
- Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**
2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. **R**



The month of March in the Catholic tradition is usually connected with St Joseph. This year on the **Feast of St Joseph (19 March)**, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart remember and give thanks for the foundation of the Congregation by Saint Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods – 160 years ago in Penola, South Australia. St Joseph is often featured in religious works of art, and we may all have a favourite picture in mind. It might be Joseph as: a family man, a protector, a carpenter, a teacher to Jesus, or one listening to God in his dreams; to name but a few. In today's world when the news is overwhelmingly about conflict and war, the image that comes to my mind is Joseph leading Mary and the child Jesus on a donkey to safety and is usually referred to as the "Flight into Egypt". In this particular version, we note that Joseph holds the reins lightly, as in "with reins of kindness, with leading strings of love." (Hosea 11:4) Today we pray for world leaders to be willing to undergo a change of heart and to lead with kindness. We are mindful of the thousands of innocent victims including generations of children who are trying to flee to safety. We pray for ourselves so that wherever we are we will act wisely and courageously and "with reins of kindness".

Sisters of St Joseph - Sr Josephine Dubiel - Congregational Leader
Acknowledgment of Source: Mary MacKillop News | Edition 223 | 8 March 2026



NEWS FROM ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Out of this World at St Joey's! St Joseph's had an incredible opportunity to link up live with the International Space Station as it crossed Australia — soaring about 400 km above Earth and travelling at an astonishing 24,000 km per hour!

During the contact, 16 of our students had the once-in-a-lifetime chance to ask questions live to astronaut Jack Hathaway, whose fascinating and inspiring answers gave us a real glimpse into life in space. It truly was an out-of-this-world experience for our whole school community and we are so grateful for the overwhelming support and excitement surrounding this special event. A huge thank you to the amazing team from ARISS - Amateur Radio on the International Space Station for making this extraordinary opportunity possible and helping bring space a little closer to St Joey's!



A group of Aussie men head over to Rome and say to the Pope, "Your Holiness, we've got a small request." The Pope smiles. "Go on, my sons." "Well... instead of 'Give us this day our daily bread,' could we change it to 'Give us this day our daily beer'?" You know what we're like. Us Aussies love a beer." The Pope chuckles. "Our Lord did turn water into wine, so He clearly appreciated a good drop." The Aussies beam. "Exactly! And while we're at it, could we also ask for a miracle back home? Maybe get the government to scrap the excise and GST and make beer cheaper for everyone?" The Pope folds his hands thoughtfully. "My sons, changing the Lord's Prayer is one thing..." They lean in eagerly. "But we are still locked into a long term contract with the bread company. And as for Australian beer tax..." He smiles kindly. "Even divine intervention has its limits."



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A

First Reading 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

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.

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

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.

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 9:1-41

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 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.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's gospel reading is the second in a series of three quite lengthy readings from the gospel of John that are a feature of the Lenten season in Year A of the liturgical cycle. The three readings address three significant themes and images: water; light; and new life. Although today's passage is about the healing of a blind man, the event takes place as part of a longer section of the gospel dealing with the image of light and specifically the image of Jesus as Light of the World.

The question asked by the disciples at the opening of this event is an interesting one. They ask, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' In Jewish culture at the time, any physical affliction was deemed to be punishment from God for sinful behaviour. As the man had been born blind, the suspicion falls on his parents as having committed such a terrible offence against God that their son is born blind. Jesus immediately rejects this interpretation of the man's affliction. Physical and mental illnesses or disabilities are in no way punishment from God.

Although the man's physical sight is restored by Jesus simply enough, his journey from darkness into light is a more complicated affair. He faces disbelief, ridicule and even abuse from the Jewish authorities as they try to discredit Jesus and diminish the impact of the miracle. In fact, their treatment of the man is what drives him along the road from recipient of an act of mercy to a confirmed believer. Furthermore, the Jewish authorities, despite their physical capacity for sight, are shown to be the ones who are truly blind and trapped in darkness because they deny the light that is before their very eyes.

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