



## 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

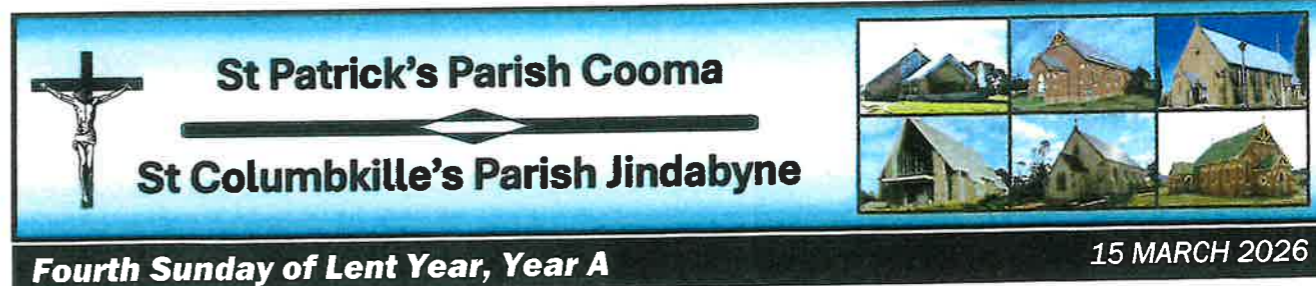
Today's gospel reading is the second in a series of three quite lengthy readings from the gospel of John that are a feature of the Lenten season in Year A of the liturgical cycle. The three readings address three significant themes and images: water; light; and new life. Although today's passage is about 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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## 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!*



**St Patrick's Parish Cooma**  
**St Columbkille's Parish Jindabyne**



**Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A 15 March 2026**

**PARISH CONTACTS**

**PARISH PRIEST**  
Father Mark Croker  
0428 190 759  
**02 6452 2062**  
**Assistant Priest: Fr Daniel**  
will be permanent our  
Parish prior to Easter 2026  
**Sacramental Program**  
Father Mark Croker  
0428 190 759  
**PARISH WEBSITE**  
[www.cg.org.au/cooma](http://www.cg.org.au/cooma)  
**Parish Secretary**  
Mrs Sharon Nesbitt  
02 6452 2062  
Mon, Wed & Thu  
9am -1pm & 2pm - 4.30pm  
Email: [cooma@cg.org.au](mailto:cooma@cg.org.au)  
**ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL**  
02 6452 1721  
**School Principal**  
Dr Mangan  
School Website:  
[www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au)  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
Darren 0429 904 291

**WEEKEND MASS & LW&HC TIMES**  
**Adaminaby**  
No Mass until further notice  
**Berridale**  
2nd & 4th Sunday  
Vigil Mass Saturday 3.30pm  
All other Sundays  
LW&HC 10am Sunday  
**Cooma**  
Mass Sunday 10am  
Mass Tue, Thu & Fri 10am  
**Except 3rd Friday of month**  
Mass Yallabee Lodge 9.30am  
Mass Hudson House Respect 11am  
**Jindabyne**  
Vigil Mass Saturday 5pm  
Except 5th Sunday  
LW&HC 5pm Saturday  
**Nimmitabel**  
1st Sunday  
Vigil Mass Saturday 3pm  
All other Sundays  
LW&HC at 5pm Saturday  
**Numeralla**  
2nd Sunday LW&HC 5pm  
4th Sunday Mass 5pm

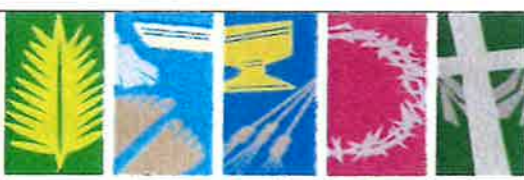
**PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**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.

SUNDAY 15 March  
*St Patrick's Day Parish & School Morning Tea*

Following Cooma Parish Mass today our St Patrick's Parish School will be hosting a Morning Tea and BBQ at the School.  
BBQ will be provided.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Lent-Year A**  
First Reading: Ez 37: 12-14  
Second Reading: Romans 8: 8-11  
Gospel: John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45



**PARISH CALENDAR**

**Week- 16 March 2026**  
MON -  
TUE St Patrick's Day -No Mass  
10am **School Liturgy**  
WED Bombala Parish 9.30am  
Delegate MPS 11am  
THU 10am Mass  
St Joseph spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
FRI 10am Mass  
6pm Stations of the Cross  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month/  
5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of LENT*  
SAT 3.30pm Berridale Mass  
5pm Jindabyne Mass  
5pm Nimmitabel LWHC  
SUN 10am Cooma Mass  
5pm Numeralla Mass  
  
**FRIDAY**  
Stations of the Cross  
6pm Fridays during Lent

**REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE**

**We pray for those who have recently departed this life.**  
**Anniversaries & Intentions**  
for those anniversaries remembered at this time, may they be welcomed into the glory of the Risen Lord and rest in eternal peace. We pray to the Lord.  
David Barron, Yarra Gregor.  
**"We have loved them in Life: Let us not forget them in death."**  
∞  
**For the sick within our families, friends and parish community** and all who have asked for our prayers, may they be granted strength, comfort and healing. We pray to the Lord.



**Prayer of the Faithful**

*Response: (R)*  
"Hear our prayer"

**PRIEST:** Let us pray that God's light will illuminate the darkness and despair present in so much of the world at the present time.

**COMMENTATOR:**(please announce) The response to today's intercessions is: **"Hear our prayer."**

- We pray that Christ be our light; may he open our eyes to the effects of sin and selfishness around us.  
Lord in your mercy
  - We pray that Christ open our eyes to the needs of others especially those close to us, whom we tend to take for granted.  
Lord, in your mercy.
  - We pray for our rural community and all who make their living from the land. Be with them, Lord, through the good times and the bad as they give thanks for rains received and face with courage the possibility of future drought or other extreme weather conditions.  
Lord, in your mercy,
  - \* We pray for those who suffer injustice and poverty, that through Project Compassion we may see that there is enough food in the world, if only we could all learn to share.  
Lord, in your mercy.
  - \* We pray for all the deceased members of our community, we remember the anniversary of dearly loved David Barron and Yarra Gregor, that they will live forever in the light of Christ.  
Lord, in your mercy
- We pray with Mary for peace in our world: Hail Mary.....
- PRIEST:** God our Creator, we bring these and all our prayers through your Son Jesus Christ Our Lord . Amen



**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
14-15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



**Please donate today.**



SERVICES

**2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation**

Cooma – Tue 31 March 2026 at 7pm  
No confession before Mass on Easter Sunday  
Jindabyne offered after Vigil Mass - 28 Mar  
Bombala offered after Mass

**Holy Thursday**

Cooma 6pm  
Delegate 5pm Bombala 6.30 pm

**GOOD FRIDAY**

Cooma Stations of the Cross 10am  
Berridale Stations of the Cross 10am (leader)  
Bombala Stations of the Cross 9.30am (Leader)  
Cooma 3pm The Passion of the Lord  
Jindabyne 3pm The Passion of the Lord  
Delegate 5pm Easter Service (Leader)

**HOLY SATURDAY**

Cooma 6pm  
Bombala 5pm  
Delegate 5pm (LWHC with Leader)

**EASTER SUNDAY**

Adaminaby 8am  
Cooma 10am Berridale 10am (Liturgy)  
Jindabyne 10am

**A man is walking home alone late one foggy night**  
Behind him he hears..  
Bump, Bump  
Walking faster, he looks back and through the fog he makes out the image of an upright casket banging it's way down the middle of the street towards him.  
Bump, Bump  
Terrified, the man begins to run towards his home, the casket bouncing quickly behind him.  
Bump, Bump  
He runs up to his door, fumbles with his keys, opens the door, rushes in, slams and locks the door behind him.  
However the casket crashes through his door with the lid of the casket clapping..  
Clappity-bump, Clappity-bump  
The terrified man rushes upstairs and locks himself in the bathroom. His heart is pounding; his head is reeling; his breath is coming in sobbing gasps. With a loud CRASH, the casket breaks down the door, bumping and clapping towards him. The man screams and reaches for something, anything, but all he can find is a bottle of cough syrup.  
Desperate, he throws the cough syrup at the casket...  
and,  
The coffin stops!!