

OUR *Lady* OF THE *Angels* PARISH

Chermside West Wavell Heights

St Gerard Majella
146 Maundrell Terrace, Chermside West

St Paschal Baylon
30 Warraba Ave, Wavell Heights

SUNDAY 19 March 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent Year A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

The 4th Sunday of Lent is traditionally called "Laetare Sunday" which comes from the Latin word 'Laetare' which means 'rejoice'. Like the 3rd Sunday of Advent (which is traditionally called 'Gaudete Sunday'), Laetare Sunday takes its name from the opening words of the Introit (Entrance Antiphon) in the Mass of the 4th Sunday of Lent, 'Laetare (Rejoice), Jerusalem'. Laetare Sunday is unique in that rose-coloured vestments can be worn and the altar can be adorned with beautiful flowers. Although we are still on our Lenten journey, we can look forward and rejoice in joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery.

In the gospel of this weekend, we read and reflect on the story of the blind man, one of the dramatic passages from the Gospel of John. Despite its drama, this gospel pericope brings out the mercy and kindness of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, who restored not only physical sight to the blind beggar - but also the light of faith.

In healing the blind beggar, Jesus did something which the Pharisees believed only God could do. In the Old Testament (Ex 4:11; Ps 146:8), restoring sight to a blind person is exclusively the work of God. However, writing within the context of the 'Feast of Tabernacles,' which is the Jewish Feast of Light, the Evangelist John presents Jesus as the Light of the World, whose light enlightens all people, and illumines the darkness of human life (John 8:32).

Jesus was making His way to Jerusalem, when He saw a man who had never experienced light before. As this man was born blind, there were things he may have heard but never seen - he may have heard words spoken in anger, and felt the pain of words spoken in revenge and bitterness, but he had never seen the curl of the lips, and the glint in the eyes, or the derangement of the person consumed by anger and hatred. As someone who was blind from birth, this guy had never had an opportunity to distinguish between colours.

Typical of the Jewish belief, the disciples of Christ, like many Christians today, unhesitatingly connected his blindness to his sin (or the sin of his parents). "This man," they asked Jesus: "whose sin caused him to be blind, his parents or his personal sin?" In His response, Jesus reminded them of the fundamental truth of what God is doing in the here-and-now of human life. God, in Jesus Christ, is making all things new.

In the synoptic gospels - Matthew, Mark and Luke, the miracles performed by Christ were often regarded as demonstrations of the compassion of Christ. For instance, when Jesus fed the multitude, Mark wrote that Jesus had compassion on them because they were 'like sheep without a shepherd' (Mark 5: 34). When a leper approached Jesus with a desperate request for healing, Jesus was moved with compassion (Mark 1: 41). However, in the healing of the blind man, compassion was not what prompted or underpinned the action of Jesus. Jesus healed the man to manifest the power and glory of God. "This man was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him", Jesus told His disciples.

It is important to note that, ironically, the healing of the blind beggar, led to blindness in those who had physical sight. The great misfortune of the people around Jesus was that they did not see that the glory and power of God could be manifested in the life of a blind man. What about us today? Don't we as Christians, sometimes struggle to discern how the glory of God could be manifested in our affliction, grief, pain and sorrow - or even in our failure. One of the ironies of our age is that, while we have invented microscopes to see things that are small in nature and telescopes to see distant objects, we often don't see that our faith in God can be a living reality in our afflictions and pains. The blind man is the "sent One." He has been sent to remind us of the efficacy of the sacraments we celebrate and receive. Just as the Holy Spirit came



PARISH PRIEST

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Website: www.olaparishchermside.org.au

PARISH SCHOOL

Our Lady of the Angels Primary School

30 Warraba Ave, Wavell Heights Q 4012

P: 07 3359 9198

Leadership Team:

Principal: Mr Matthew Beacroft

APA: Mr Sam O'Leary

APRE: Mrs Kirsten Karey

PLL: Mrs Liz O'Brien

MASS TIMES

St Gerard Majella - 146 Maundrell Tce, Chermside West

Mon: 9.00am **FRI:** 9.00am

Sat 4:30pm **Sun:** 8:00am & 5:30pm

St Paschal Baylon - 30 Warraba Ave, Wavell Heights

Wed: 8:45am **Thu:** 9.00 am

Sat: 6:00pm **Sun:** 9:30am

RECONCILIATION IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Contact the Parish Office to book

STOpline Service 1300 304 550

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(Continued from P1.)

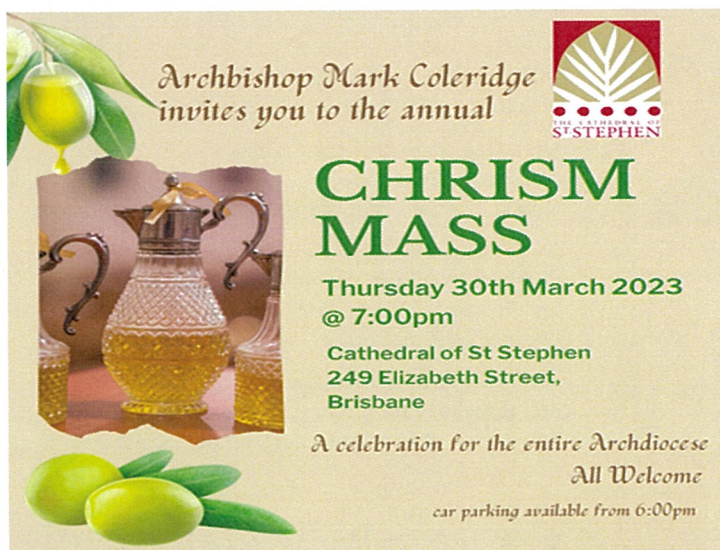
heavily upon David when he was anointed by Samuel and Christ used ordinary clay and water to heal the blind beggar, Jesus encounters us, and we encounter Him too, whenever we celebrate and receive the sacraments.

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, each of us has an opportunity to reflect on those challenges which hinder us from encountering Jesus Christ, personally and intimately. Jesus still heals and forgives sins. May Christ continue to heal and open our interior vision, so that our faith will grow stronger to become not only what we profess on Sunday when we are within the walls of a church building, but also the life we live through all the days of the week.

Wishing all a faith-filled week.

God bless you all.

Fr. John



Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites you to the annual

CHRISM MASS

Thursday 30th March 2023
@ 7:00pm

Cathedral of St Stephen
249 Elizabeth Street,
Brisbane

A celebration for the entire Archdiocese
All Welcome
car parking available from 6:00pm

PALM CROSSES

If you would like to learn how to make these little Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday we will be holding a workshop at St Gerards on Saturday 1 April. If anyone in the Parish has Cocos Palms and would be happy to donate some branches that would be great, please deliver to the church by Friday 31 March or bring with you on the day. Bring along a plate to share for morning tea. It will be a fun communal morning while we all get to learn a new skill. Look forward to seeing you there.



Attention Ladies

Lenten Reflection Day

The Lenten Reflection Day which was planned for next Wednesday 22nd March has been deferred, due to the low number of enrolments and several apologies. The reflection day will now take place on the **10th of May** and hopefully this time won't be so busy for us all. My apologies to those who enrolled.



Sr. Carmel

Our Lady of the Angels' Parish Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturday mornings at 10:00am alternately at St Gerards' and St Paschals'. Bookings to be arranged in person at the Parish Office Monday - Friday between 9am - 3pm. Please check the Parish website for documentation required when making a booking.

Changes to Parish Office Hours

Please note from Monday 13 March our new office hours will be **Monday to Friday 9am—3pm.**

New Weekday Mass Times

As from Monday, March 6, Weekday Mass times will change as follows:

- Tuesday Mass will be discontinued
- It will be replaced by a Mass on Monday at 9.00am
- Friday Mass time will change to 9.00am
- There will be no changes at St Paschal's

New Phone Number

The **Local Safeguarding Representative** mobile phone number for all Safeguarding matters is **0493 655 502**. Please use this number in future for any messages or phone calls regarding Safeguarding.

In addition, could you please use the special safeguarding email: lsr.chermsidewest@bne.catholic.net.au for safeguarding notices, documents, etc.

Thank you. Carmela Knauth, LSR

Stewardship

March 19, 2023—4th Sunday of Lent

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." 1Samuel 16:7

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

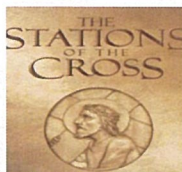
Accessed on 17/3/2023 - <https://www.archstl.org/about-stewardship/bulletin-inserts/weekly-bible-reflections>

THANK YOU Message from Fr John

What an extra-ordinary weekend we had as a community of faith with the visit of Bishop Tim and my installation as your Parish Priest. I thank Bishop Tim for his pastoral visit to our parish. I am grateful to the priests, friends and former parishioners who joined us at the installation Mass. Events associated with pastoral visits and installation mass and the celebrations afterwards do not just happen. They take lots of plannings, organization and active participations. Many thanks to our parish staff, altar servers, and everyone who gave of their time and talents. I make a special mention of Dianne Trudgian for not only planning the liturgy so well but also for being a reliable 'Go to Person' since the retirement of Kerstin. I have been blessed by Dianne's knowledge of the parish and her generous spirit. It is my prayer that God continue to bless and make our Lady of the Angels Parish a community of missionary disciples. Once again, thank you everyone.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated 30 minutes before Thursday and Friday weekday Masses ie
Thursdays at 8.30am at St Paschal's
Fridays at 8.30am at St Gerard's



Brief Messages

Names for Altar Servers, Readers, and Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Week please put your times on the sheets this weekend.

Lenten Penitential Prayer Service
Wednesday 29th March 7pm at St Paschal's
ALL WELCOME

The IONA PASSION PLAY

Good Friday 7 April & Saturday 8 April
Iona Performing Arts Centre, Iona College
85 North Rd, Lindum, QLD
Earlybird Discounts (Book by 5pm 31 March)
Enquiries: info@ipp.org.au or (07) 3333 1993
Bookings: www.passionplay.org.au

Old Irish Choir St Patrick's Day

Sunday 19 March—2pm—CKCC
Cnr Rode Rd & Gympie Rd
Tickets \$20 through trybooking.com
Enquiries 0493 455 487

JISA FABER—Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality
Retreat opportunities. See noticeboard or website:
www.jisa.org.au

CHILDREN'S DISCUSSION STARTERS

A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:

Can you remember a time when you were in the dark?

What was it like?

The blind man in today's Gospel could not see until Jesus healed him.

What would it have been like for the blind man after he was healed?

What does it mean that Jesus is the 'light of the world'?

How can we be the light of the world to others?

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Questions for Adolescents by Greg Sunter

Q. Why might the Jews have associated physical affliction with punishment from God?

Q. Why might Jesus have performed this miracle in such a physical, 'hands-on' way?

Q. What reasons can you suggest for the apparent reluctance to accept the miraculous healing?

Q. In what ways can you relate your own experiences to one of the characters in the passage?

Q. What are the areas of 'blindness' in your life?

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WE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Please pray for Sebastiano Calabro, Cecil Corriea, John D’Silva and all those whose names appear in our Parish Books of Remembrance. .

Sick: Please pray for all those whose names appear in our Parish Books of the Sick.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

26 March 2023 - 5th SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37: 12-14
Psalm: Psalm 129
2nd Reading: Romans 8: 8-11
Gospel: John 11: 1-45

Regular Parish Activities

1st Friday: Adoration after 9.00am Mass St Gerards
2nd Friday: Anointing Mass 9.00am St Gerards
Rosary : before Friday Mass (but not during Lent)
: after Friday Mass

What’s on This Week: 20 Mar—24 Mar 2023

Mon 20/3 Christian Meditation St P 5:45pm
Wed 22/3 First Reconciliation St G 6.00pm
Thurs 23/3 Thursday Ladies Group St G 10:00am
Thurs 23/3 First Reconciliation St P 6.00pm

Op-Shop OPEN

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Piety Shop OPEN

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm



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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Turrbal Peoples, who have walked this Country in ages past, who walk it now and will walk it in the future. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their profound connection and respect for the land and waterways of this Country. Spirit and Creator God, may you guide us in the traditions of this land as we walk gently and humbly, in kinship with all of creation.



DAILY GOSPEL REFLECTIONS
Stay centred in your faith with this daily series of theological reflections on the Gospel of the day. Sign up to receive a one page reflection each week day in your inbox. Sign up here: <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/>



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