

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Longer form, 9:1-41

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The Mystery of Faith

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Jn 9:11, 38

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy

and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

CHRIST'S TRANSFORMING LIGHT

Learning to read between the lines is not a skill that comes naturally to most of us. Today's readings show just how difficult and challenging it can be to look into the heart of things to see them as God does. Samuel knew that he had been commissioned to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the new king, but which one? As Samuel is reminded, we tend to look at appearances but God looks at the heart. Ultimately, it is the Lord who will teach Samuel that David is the chosen one.

The letter to the Ephesians invites us to join in the journey of discovering what the Lord wants of us. It requires honesty and trust, to bring ourselves as we are to the light of Christ. While fear might hold us back, there is the encouraging reminder that what is brought to the light of Christ is not condemned, but transformed and turned into light.

The episode of the man born blind is a marvellous example of how difficult and yet freeing, it is to come into the light of Christ. The man gradually moves from seeing Jesus as a man, then as a prophet, and finally coming to believe in him as Lord. He was originally treated as an outsider because of his disability. After being questioned three times, his growing insight and faith lead him to be cast out yet again, but now he is no longer alone; now the Lord stands beside him.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

19 MARCH 2023

'NOW I CAN SEE!' In today's Gospel it is the man born blind who gradually comes to see that Jesus is Lord. Meanwhile the Pharisees, the custodians of the traditional faith, fall steadily into blindness. Self-confident in their own knowledge, the Pharisees refuse to see the workings of God in Jesus. Let us humbly ask Christ to open our eyes that we may see his presence in our Eucharistic community and in our world.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 66:10-11

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

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

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.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

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, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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



HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH RYDALMERE

Fourth Sunday of Lent / A
19 March 2023

Church: 4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere
Mail: 2 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere 2116
Phone: (02) 9684 1541, 0432 950 895
Email: admin@holymary.org.au
Website: www.holymary.org.au



Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Lamont
Ass. Priest: Fr. Yong Ho Jang (Fr. Pio)
St Mary's School: Mr. Richard Blissenden
St Patrick's Marist: Mr. Paul Ryan

MASS TIMES

SUNDAY EUCHARIST:	Saturday Vigil	5.30pm
	Sunday	7.30am & 10.00am
WEEKDAY EUCHARIST:	Tuesday - Saturday	9.15am
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday	4.30pm - 5.15pm
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	Exposition: Wednesday and Saturday	8.30am
	Exposition: Monday - Friday	7.00pm - 12.00am
BAPTISMS:	2 nd and 4 th Sunday of month	11.30am

Please Pray For

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Terry Ferguson - Enea Menin - Trudi Fisher, Fr John De Luca, Les Riedling (Father of Fr Robert Riedling), Fr Ruben Elago.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Emily Eggleton, Kevin Williams, Thelma Herlihy, Delfin Gonzales, Lyal West, Fr Paul Gardiner SJ, Jacob Dzido, Janja Dzido, Josip Staresincic, Josipa Staresincic.

Rosters – 25/26 March

Cleaning Ministry:

Computer Operators:

Vigil 5.30pm
Sun. 7.30am
Sun. 10.00am

Caterina Cipri, Monica Jung
George Davidson
Christopher Younis
Glenys Oxlee

Counters:

Lectors:

Vigil 5.30pm
Sun. 7.30am
Sun. 10.00am

Lawrence Tsang, Patrizia Hild
Sue Farrugia, Len Farrugia
Angela Finnane, Will Finnane
Lynette Rodrigues, Anton Fernando



FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR FR PETER – SAVE THE DATE

A farewell luncheon for Fr Peter will be held on **Sunday May 21st at 12.30pm**. Lunch will be catered, and the cost will include a donation towards a gift for Fr Peter. Further details to follow. Please save the date for the moment. Contact Glenys Oxlee 0488 228 633 or glmaox@ozemail.com.au.

LAWN MOWING, WEEDING & PRUNING

Lawn mowing, weeding, pruning reasonable rate and discounts for Senior Citizens. Please contact John – 0426 864 830

MGL SISTERS CONSECRATED LIFE DISCERNMENT WEEKEND: 25 – 26 MARCH

The Missionaries of God's Love Sisters are creating an opportunity for single women aged 16-35 to come and listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. 25-26 March at the Sisters' home in Varroville. For more information, and to register, email mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF BARBARA CLARKE

Barbara's family would like her friends from Rydalmere Parish to know that Barbara is now in permanent care.

MONTHLY ROSARY AT THE SHOPS

Please join us in a Public Rosary which takes place at 3pm on the last Saturday of each month. We pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by the Rosary. It takes about 40 minutes. Prayers will begin at 3pm sharp at Ermington Shops, opposite the post office on **Saturday the 25th of March**. Comment: March is the month of St Joseph. Pray a little prayer to him. (Thank you to those who donated to the outback mission. Much good will come of this). (Brian Nairn 0409306381).



NEWS FROM ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Did you know? Our Parish Primary School, St Mary's was opened in 1889 – meaning this is the 135th year of our school. We owe a debt of gratitude to both the Sisters of Mercy and the Marist Brothers who ran and worked in the school for decades. For more information about St Mary's log onto their website <http://www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au/>



PROJECT COMPASSION

Laxmi, 16, lives in a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school. Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.** Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations **Jack Dettling** and **Zoe Griffiths** who received the Sacrament of Baptism last Sunday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will continue **Fridays from 7.00pm to 7.30pm**. Eucharistic Adoration will follow The Stations of the Cross and conclude at midnight.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY APPEAL

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Türkiye and Syria. Over 50,000 people have been killed, with many more injured and left homeless. We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe. Your generous donation means our partners in Türkiye and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

RYDALMEN

Our men's group next gathers on Thursday 23rd March at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start in the Parish meeting room. We will continue our Lenten study based on the Diocese of Wollongong's "Triumph" program. Contact details: shane.young@ozemail.com.au, 0432 815 165.



HOLY WEEK/EASTER CHOIR

Choir rehearsal for Holy Week/Easter will continue this Wednesday 22 March at 7.30pm in the Church.

MFC YOUTHS & SINGLES THEOLOGY OF THE BODY TALK

There are 3 talks and a short activity & light snacks will be served.

What : Theology of the Body

When : **1 April 2023**

Day : Saturday

Where : Parish Hall

Time : **6:00pm** (after 5:30 Sat. Vigil mass)

Talk 1 - You are a gift - (aimed to let the participants realise their bodies are sacred, they are a gift of authentic masculinity and authentic femininity).

Talk 2 - God's plan for sex - (aimed to give them an understanding of what was God's plan for sex and how all sexual sin falls outside of God's plan)

Talk 3 - Redemption and Catholic Guide to dating (aimed at helping them realise God's mercy and some tips for Catholic dating)

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 20 March – St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, foster father of Our Lord

Saturday, 25 March – The Annunciation

Wednesday, 22 March – Saint Isidore the Farmer

Isidore was born in Madrid, Spain, in the latter half of the 12th century. St. Isidore has become the patron of farmers and rural communities. When he was barely old enough to wield a hoe, Isidore entered the service of John de Vergas, a wealthy landowner from Madrid, and worked faithfully on his estate outside the city for the rest of his life. He married a young woman as simple and upright as himself who also became a saint—Maria de la Cabeza. They had one son, who died as a child. Many marvellous happenings accompanied his lifelong work in the fields and continued long after his holy death. He was favoured with celestial visions and, it is said, the angels sometimes helped him in his work in the fields. He was known for his love of the poor, and there are accounts of Isidore's supplying them miraculously with food. He had a great concern for the proper treatment of animals. Part of what has made St. Isidore such an endearing figure through the church is his story that shows how great holiness can be found in the humble, mundane tasks of daily life. And it is one that transcends cultures, regions, and time. Isidore was canonized on March 22, 1622 — which was his original feast day.

