



PARISH OFFICE: 44 Margaret Street, Launceston T250 **PHONE:** 6331 4377
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OFFICE HOURS: 10.00AM - 3.00PM on MONDAY - FRIDAY; CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS
PARISH TEAM: Fr Ben Brooks, Fr Chathura Silva, Fr Jessie Banez
Carolyn Gutteridge—**Parish Secretary**
Rosie Caelli —**Sacramental Co-ordinator**
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) - 19 MARCH 2023

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.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

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!*

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.)

GOSPEL (Shorter form) John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

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.



Dear Parish family,

Recently, after my annual visit to the optometrist, I have acquired a new pair of glasses. While I have used reading glasses for many years now, this is the first time that I have been prescribed “distance” glasses – and has it opened a whole new world?!

To be honest, I didn't see the need for these glasses, because as far as I was concerned my eyesight is pretty good. But once I tried them on everything is so much more clearer, colours are brighter and road signs are sharper!

I guess that the clearer vision I now experience is just a fraction of the light that came into the world of the man who was born blind in today's gospel. The world of darkness that he inhabited was certainly one of loneliness, incapability and of judgement. We see this in the question the disciples asked Jesus: “*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?*” Just to acknowledge the man's existence was to acknowledge the presence of sin, or disorder, on the part of at least one of his parents or himself.

Jesus reaches out to the man, physically, in order to restore his sight and give him some dignity in the community in which he lived, and also that everyone may see that God gives light that dispels all darkness – including sin, guilt and shame – in his healing grace.

The blindness that shuts out this light is that of judgement and selfishness, which he warns the pharisees who question him that they are in danger of being overwhelmed by.

Let us pray in our Masses this weekend for this gift of light promised by God, that our lives, and particularly the lives of **Melissa Jago and Jackie Divall** who continue on their journey to sacramental initiation, may be enlightened by the risen Christ this Easter.

Have a blessed week.

Fr Ben Brooks



Making the most of Lent.....

JOIN A LENTEN PROGRAM GROUP “God is on the Journey too” Lent is a time of prayer, penance, renewal of faith and refocusing on God in our life. Join one of the following groups for prayer and sharing based on the Gospels as we journey through Lent to Easter: **10.30am Mondays or 10.30am Wednesdays downstairs in the the Pastoral Centre.**

Lenten Program Books Limited copies of the Parish Lent Program are available from the office @\$10 a copy for your personal lent journey.

Friday Holy Hour Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place for one hour every Friday after the 12noon Mass at the Church of the Apostles.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Church, Newstead on the Fridays of Lent. Make this a focus for your Lenten prayer and renewal.

PROJECT COMPASSION is a way to make your Lenten efforts practical in assisting those most in need. Make sure every home has one of the boxes or a set of envelopes.

Lenten talk by Fr Michael Tate

‘Shakespeare, Jesus of Nazareth, and the Mercy of God’

7 pm on Wednesday 22 March, Pastoral Centre—Upstairs

All parishioners are welcome

A VOCATION VIEW

If we cannot see where we are going, we will never get there. The Good Shepherd leads us to green pastures, refreshes our souls and brings light to a darkened world.

YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTISED especially **Vala Stuthridge** (Brady and Emily) and **Bellamy and Jasper Sheppard** (Corey and Caitlin) who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism within our parish this weekend.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Fr Martin Aye Ngwe, Fr Terry Yard, Greg Hopwood, Noelene Bye, Nanette Gunton, Maria Holton, Myra Conway, Kathy Aldred, Teresa McMahon, Kim Izard, Danielle Evans, Louisa Buttazzoni, Lalla Smethurst, Sally Griffin (Smethurst), Pauline Heazlewood, Patsy Heath, Alex Thrower, Marie Cousins, Alida Moolenschot, Archivaldo Pechon, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Shirley Ambrose, Qian Zhang-Allchin, Carole Cleary, Bev Callahan, Helen Wright, Alfred Weeding, Maureen Saunders, Mary Morgan, Mary Carter, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Tony Long, Kristel Latham, Joan Keefe, Jennifer Dowell, Andrew Campbell, Bill Lewis, Vincent Burke, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Hudson, Brian Beardwood, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan, Max Jamieson, Jan McClean and Peter Marshall.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Sr Teresa OCD, Henryk Gebka, Tim O'Sullivan, Jesse Youd, Pam Dalton, Beverley Ryan, Dawn Leyden and Graham Quinn who have died recently, Brian Harley, Mary Siejka, Dulcie Smith, Patrick Carroll, Mary Gillie, Patricia Shaw, Fay Burt, Edwin Fisher, Peter Johannes, Lynne Neep, Niki Iezzi, Donald Wright, Zofia Cibik, Patricia Bingley, Beatrice Nelson, Kathleen Phillips, John Zammit, we remember all victims of the COVID-19 virus and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY: As the COVID virus continues to affect our lives, we pray in a special way for all those involved in frontline services. We pray for the gift of healing and peace for all who contract the virus, especially for those who are in hospital, and for their families.

PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass **tomorrow, Monday 20th March**, at the Carmelite Monastery, 7 Cambridge, St, West Launceston, concluding with Benediction at 3pm. All welcome.

MORNING MEDITATION at the **Emmanuel Centre Tuesdays at 11am**. Newcomers are welcome. Enquiries: phone 6334 1082

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place for one hour every Friday after the 12noon Mass at the Church of the Apostles.

ROSARY: is recited every Monday at 7:30pm in the comfort of your own home. Enquiries: Jan (0409 175 940) or Adrian & Liz (0407 074 693)

THE CARMEL SHOP: 7 Cambridge Street, West Launceston is open on Wednesdays between 11.00am - 4.00pm

Copies of the latest edition of The Catholic Standard are available in the Church and the foyer of the Pastoral Centre or look for the online version on the Archdiocese of Hobart website.

PALM SUNDAY VIGIL PILGRIMAGE

SATURDAY 1 APRIL 2023

2:30pm Start - St Finn Barr's Church, Invermay

5.15pm Finish - Sacred Heart Church, Newstead

Sacrament of Reconciliation available

6pm - Vigil Mass

For further information and
Registration, scan here



Registrations close 12 noon on Wednesday 29 March, 2023

As long as I am
in the world,
I am the light
of the world.
John 9:5



PALM SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE WEDNESDAY 29th March

Volunteers needed

We are looking for assistant volunteers for our pilgrimage event, both walking participants and those that cannot walk due to mobility issues.

We are seeking qualified **first aid persons** (2 preferably) [these persons can walk as well if they wish], **route marshals** (2 preferably) for road crossing assistance, **catering assistants** for refreshments (3-4) [these persons can walk as well if they wish].

Please note: a current Police Check and Working with Vulnerable People registration will be required to comply with the Archdiocese of Hobart –Safe Communities Policy for these roles.

Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help.

Volunteers required for the Choir for Easter Liturgies

If you have the ability to sing in tune and can make a commitment to attending Rehearsals please contact the Parish Office or talk to Janet Hoare (Organist) after the 10.30am Mass at Apostles.

(As there are only stairs to the choir loft, you will need to be able to get up and down the stairs without any difficulty).

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

| | | |
|----------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Saturday | 6.00pm Vigil | Sacred Heart, Newstead |
| Sunday | 7.30am | Carmel |
| 9.00am | St Finn Barr's | Invermay |
| 9.00am | St Patrick's Chapel | Prospect |
| 10.30am | Apostles | |
| 6.30pm | Apostles (Oct—March) | |

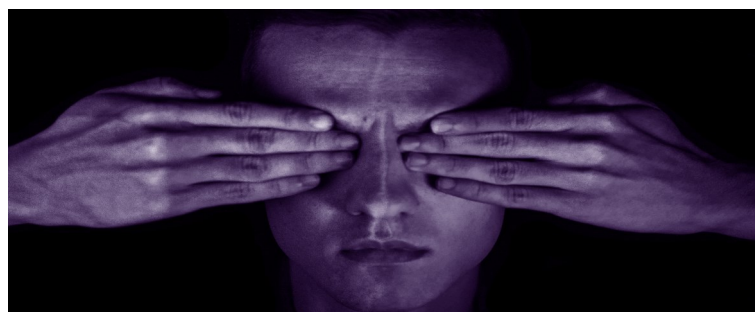
WEEKDAY MASSES 20th—25th March

7.30am Monday to Friday at Carmel

| | | |
|-----------|--------|----------|
| Tuesday: | 12noon | Newstead |
| Wednesday | 5.30pm | Apostles |
| Thursday: | 12noon | Invermay |
| Friday: | 12noon | Apostles |
| Saturday: | 9am | Carmel |

RECONCILIATION

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| Saturday: | 10.00am - 11.00am | Apostles |
| | 5.15pm - 5.45pm | Newstead |



Bank details for direct debit donations to support the financial needs of your Parish:

Account Name: Launceston Catholic Parish

BSB: 067 000; **Account No:** 1031 6153.

Reference: "your surname"

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



*My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.*



PROJECT COMPASSION For All Future Generations

Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With the support of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Thu can now earn extra income and care for his wife as she recovers from a stroke.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Boxes and envelopes are available in the Church. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March 2023

For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



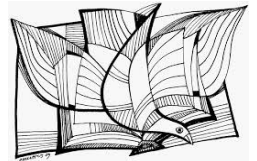
When he met Jesus again, the man who had been blind put his faith in Jesus and worshiped him. What can we do to show that we believe in Jesus?

GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Monday 20th: Matthew 1:16,18-21,24
Tuesday 21st: John 5:1-3,5-16
Wednesday 22nd: John 5:17-30
Thursday 23rd: John 5:31-47
Friday 24th: John 7:1-2,10,25-30
Saturday 25th: Luke 1:26-38

NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalms 129
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45



Ponder and pray the living Word of God

LAUNCESTON PARISH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Enquires: please contact Fr Chatty 0469 661 578



YOUTH GROUP for young people from grades 5 to 12 - Music, Sport, Adventures, Social Work, Faith meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6.00pm - 7.30pm St Ailbe's Hall.
Next meeting 24th March

Young Adults Group: 2nd and 4th Sundays
12noon @ the Pastoral Centre

Children's Corner

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

The Lord is my shepherd

C B H K N L I G H T B E K U S
C D C M L F T D A V I D F F F
P F G S H E E P D K B L W Q I
X E V V Z Y I H I Q N Y G X O
D D R E S G B B D S E E T T Z
A B L I N D T K M X Q H X V L
Z C D C G E K D N T O R R O K
M O B H C Q E Y E S G P M S Z
V T V O J Y I N E U T X U U M
L I M S Z T H E Q I B U D S A
H L A E Q P M Y E N R S A O N
M M X N Y M S S I L O A M X A
C H I L D R E N J E S S E Q G

Try to find these words:

blind
children
chosen
David
eyes
Jesse
light
man
mud
see
sheep
Siloam

1 line 10-15; 6-7; 10-15
Pg 233; 1st 10-15; 10-15; 10-15
Pg 233; 1st 10-15; 10-15; 10-15
Pg 233; 1st 10-15; 10-15; 10-15