

Saints and Masses this Week **Tuesday** 17 March – St Patrick,
Wednesday 18 March – Lent wk4, **Thursday** 19 March – **NO MASS, PRIESTS’**
LENTEN PRAYER DAY, **Friday** 20 March – Lent wk4, **Saturday** 21 March – Lent
 wk4, **Sunday** 22 March – Fifth Sunday of Lent

LENTEN NOTICES

Stations of the Cross	Every Friday 6:00pm
Project Compassion Collection Boxes	18 February to 5 April
Priests’ Lenten Prayer Day	NO MASS IN SEYMOUR THURSDAY 19 MARCH
Tuesday of Holy Week Mass of the Oils in St Patrick’s Cathedral	NO MASS IN SEYMOUR TUESDAY 31 MARCH
AS THE FIRST THURSDAY OF APRIL IS HOLY THURSDAY AND OTHER MASSES MAY NOT BE	SAID, THE ANOINTING MASS WILL BE ON THE WEDNESDAY
Anointing Mass 9:30am	Wednesday 1 April
Holy Thursday	2 April
Good Friday and Holy Land Collection	3 April
Easter Sunday	5 April

Archbishop Convoles Diocesan Synod As he officially convoked the upcoming Melbourne Synod at St Patrick’s Cathedral on Sunday, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli pointed to the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, describing the synod as ‘an encounter at this same well’, where ‘we may dare to ask, to listen and to cross boundaries’ in search of a relationship built on truth and love.

Pious Goods Stall We have lots of pious goods and instruments of devotion to help you or someone you love to grow in holiness. Great opportunity to give a gift of faith and encouragement.

SAINTS OF ITALY (8TH - 21ST JUNE 2026) FR. FRANCO FILIPPETTO INVITES YOU TO A 14-DAY JOURNEY TO ITALY, VISITING MILAN, PADUA, SIENA, ASSISI, ROTONDO, SORRENTO, AND ROME, WITH AN ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE OF \$ 9,290 + TIPS (FOR 30+ PILGRIMS). THE EARLY BIRD PRICE EXPIRES ON JANUARY 30TH. THE FARE INCLUDES RETURN ECONOMY AIRFARES + LOCAL TRANSFERS IN DELUXE COACHES + STAY IN 4-STAR PREMIUM HOTELS, MEALS + ENGLISH SPEAKING PROFESSIONAL GUIDES + ENTRANCES AS PER ITINERARY AND MORE. FOR INQUIRIES & BOOKINGS CALL 03 8839 6615 OR EMAIL US PILGRIMAGE@MAGIHOLIDAYS.COM.AU

ONLINE LITURGICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS IN 2026 COMMUNION TO THE SICK TRAINING STARTS 3 JUNE; FEE IS \$65 PER PERSON. SEE WWW.ACU.EDU.AU/PASTORAL. IF INTERESTED CONTACT FR ASHKAR BEFORE REGISTERING.



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Parish Priest: Rev Fr Eugene Ashkar

Parish Secretary: Lorraine Nagle (Thurs)

MASS TIMES		ROSTERS THIS WEEK	
TUES – SAT SAT VIGIL SUNDAY	9am at St Mary’s	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	
	6pm at St Mary’s	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	8:30am Tallarook 10am at St Mary’s	M Winnell	M Flynn
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
M Winnell	C Crowe	M Winnell	A. Allison S Anderson
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
C Mansbridge	C Spykers	SATURDAY C. Spykers W. Spykers	SUNDAY C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$718.75

RECENTLY DECEASED We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 15/3 -22/3: Annette Delaney, Bishop Pat Murphy, Peter Hughes, Ian McCurry, Mary Lubeck, Mary Graham, Hendrikus Voogt, Jack Garrattt, Gina Sagatino.

ILLNESSES: We pray for: Bruce Burgess, Brian Woods, Margaret Jennings, Sonia Willett, Rimon & Ellen Ashkar, John McMahon, Peter Matthews, Peter Gough, Colin Cooper, Milly Brock, Jeremy Stokes, Pete Dillon, and all who are suffering from the Corona Virus and all those unwell at the present time, who receive support from our prayers.

21 /22 MAR 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

LECTORS

MASS PREPARATION

COUNTERS: A & V Hall

Sat: M Winnell

Sat: C Smith

Sat: C Smith

M Muscovich

Sun: E Devaney

Sun: R Basco H Basco

Sun: M Flynn

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 22)

ANTIPHON: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

RESPONSE: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

LECTOR: 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.**

LECTOR: 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.**

LECTOR: 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.**

LECTOR: 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 ACCLAMATION 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!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

TODAY'S READINGS 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

NEXT WEEK (5th Sunday of Lent, Yr A) Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

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Learning to see as God sees



15 March 2026 4th Sunday Lent Year A

When Jesus says he is the light of the world what do we make of it? Have we ever experienced this light? Or do we live somewhere between the darkness and the promise of it, perhaps too caught up in the light of our phones to see the people around us? In the gospel Jesus sees a man born blind, and the disciples ask whether it was his sin or his parents that caused it? Neither he replies. Beyond the social shaming Jesus sees the man himself, one in whom we'll behold the glory of God.

Our coming to sight doesn't always happen instantly, as the man reveals, but step by step. It begins when Jesus sees him and the man goes and bathes in the pool as Jesus had said; trusting in him he receives his sight. However, now he's doubted by his friends, abandoned by his parents, and three times he's questioned by the Pharisees, who determine Jesus is a sinner, until finally they drive the man out of the synagogue – and through it all he holds his nerve and simply tells them what he knows, what Jesus has done: he bears extraordinary witness to him.

Hearing what's happened Jesus comes looking for him and invites him to take a further step into the light. When he says yes, and worships him, he affirms that it's Jesus alone who gives real meaning to our lives, that he is our life. In doing so the man reveals what we long for but are often uncertain about. Are we

able to see him in those we are close to, or in the dark moments of our lives, let alone in the outcast and the stranger? As one young man did when he began leaving food with homeless people in a nearby street, until one evening one of them said to him, 'talk to us, don't just feed us like dogs'. He then realised they were human too; that they had something to give him, and it changed his life: in their company he came to know Jesus.

Finally, Jesus speaks with the Pharisees of his coming into the world to enable us to choose. Do we begin to open our lives to his light – to the glory of God – or hold fast to what we've known, blinded by our reluctance to see? Jesus doesn't condemn the Pharisees but reveals to them their blindness, as he does with us.

The first two readings speak of a God who 'looks at the heart' not simply our self-presentation. This is what informs God's way in directing Samuel's choice of a king. And like the prophet, we have to learn to see as God sees. While Paul speaks of discovering 'what the Lord wants of you' by facing into the darknesses of our lives and letting them be illuminated by the light of Christ. As those about to be baptised at Easter reveal to us, this transformation is at the heart of Lent.

Damian Coleridge
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