

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

15 March 2026

readings

Next Week 5th Sunday of Lent

Ezek 37:12-14

Ps129

Rom 8:8-11

Jn 11:1-45

in a nutshell

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 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.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially Fr Pat Purcell, Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, And For those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

Wednesday's Mass will have the whole school attending and we will celebrate the Solemnity of St Joseph.

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

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

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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.)

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.)

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.)

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

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

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday

9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

St Thomas a Becket, Yarra Junction

Sunday Mass

Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am

First Friday—11:30am

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:10pm- 6:40pm

Mount Evelyn: Saturday

11:30am-12:30pm

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

St Josephs

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarraalley

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday
mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Parish Meetings: April 8
6:00 p.m. Wednesday

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Your financial support can be made via:

- Cash using the stewardship envelopes—call the office for information on how to become a contributor
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Sacred Heart Church**: 670642723, Presbytery: 649237379
- Use the QR Code on this page
- The website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarra> and choose where you are donating: church, presbytery, maintenance.



Parish Notices

Celebrating St Joseph

As the feast day of St Joseph is the 19 March, it will be acknowledged on Wednesday with a whole school Mass.

Synod Corner—What is a Synod?

A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly, "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"

The Archbishop's letter is available in the foyer.

Stations of the Cross During Lent 6pm (Mount Evelyn)

We will be praying the Stations of the Cross at St Mary's every Friday during Lent. Please come and pray this traditional devotion following the path of our Lord to Calvary. Jesus said to St Faustina: There is more merit to one hour of meditation on My sorrowful Passion than there is to a whole year of flagellation that draws blood; the contemplation of My painful wounds is of great profit to you, and it brings Me great joy. Mount Evelyn: 6:00 pm.

Lenten Bible Study: Images of Hope (Mount Evelyn)

Come and join us for a Lenten Bible Study on Wednesdays in Lent concluding Wednesday, 25 March. Bring your Bible! Bible passages we will study:

1. Binding of Isaac: Gen 22.1-19 (cf. Mt 26.36-46)
2. Ecce Homo: Jn 18.38-19.6 (cf. Is 52.13-53.12)
3. My God, My God: Mt 27.32-56 (cf. Ps 22)
4. There came out blood and water: Jn 19.17-37 (cf. Zech 12.10-13.1 & Gen 2.18-25)
5. Mary Magdalene (The Christian Life): Lk 7:36-8.2 & Jn 12:1-8 (cf. Lk 10:38-42 & Jn 20:11-18 & Mt 21.28-32)

Palms for Palm Sunday

Time to start thinking about palms for the weekend of March 28/29. Bring them with you to Masses that weekend for blessing. If you can bring extra to share with other parishioners that would be appreciated.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

I beg you to show the greatest possible reverence and honour for the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom all things, whether on earth or in heaven, have been brought to peace and reconciled with Almighty God. (St. Francis of Assisi)

Prayer to the Virgin Mary before Confession. Mary, Mother of Jesus and my Mother, your Son died on a cross for me. Help me to confess my sins humbly and with trust in the mercy of God, that I may receive his pardon and peace.

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction: Thursday 6:00pm. Mount Evelyn: Tuesday 5:10pm, Friday 8:10am. Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

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

Project Compassion—Fourth Sunday of Lent

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.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes **Or online at:** www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

International Eucharistic Congress 2028

Eucharist28 prayer cards are available in the foyer. Please feel free to take some.

Interested in Spiritual Direction?

The Catholic Encyclopaedia defines Spiritual direction as an interpersonal relationship in which one person, a director, accompanies another on the journey of faith. Its form is a conversation around the events and concerns of the directee's life and prayer that focuses on the leading of the Spirit and the directee's openness, awareness and response to the mystery of God's presence and action in his or her life.

Volunteers for Spiritual Direction needed

My name is Mary Ryan, I am studying at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Croydon, which is part of the University of Divinity. I am doing a Spiritual Direction course and need volunteers to help me perfect my skills as a Spiritual Director. This would entail an 1 hour session, once a month free of charge to have a conversation. Anyone interested in helping can contact me on 0437101274. Thank you.

For a Giggle...Some one Liners!

I only know 25 letters of the alphabet. I don't know y.

I ordered a chicken and an egg online ... I'll let you know which comes first.

I used to hate facial hair—but then it grew on me.

Easter Schedule — (Both Parishes)

Holy Thursday

NO 9am Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper: Yarra Junction 6pm, Mt Evelyn 8pm

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross: Yarra Junction 10:30, Mt Evelyn 9am

Passion of the Lord: Mt Evelyn 3pm

Easter Vigil

Yarra Junction 6pm, Mt Evelyn 8:30pm

Saturday Confessions Mt Evelyn 11:30am-12:30pm

Easter Sunday

Yarra Junction 8:30am, Mt Evelyn 10:30am & 5pm

Readings Reflection

Eyesight to the Blind

God's ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind.

The blind man stands for all humanity. "Born totally in sin," he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth (see Genesis 2:7), Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay (see John 9:11). As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means "Sent."

Jesus is the One "sent" by the Father to do the Father's will (see John 9:4; 12:44). He is the new source of life-giving water: the Holy Spirit who rushes upon us in Baptism (see John 4:10; 7:38–39).

This is the Spirit that rushes upon God's chosen king David in today's First Reading. A shepherd like Moses before him (see Exodus 3:1; Psalm 78:70–71), David is also a sign pointing to the good shepherd and king to come—Jesus (see John 10:11).

The Lord is our shepherd, as we sing in today's Psalm. By His death and Resurrection He has made a path for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the verdant pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church.

In the restful waters of Baptism He has refreshed our souls. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation and spread the Eucharistic table before us, filling our cups to overflowing.

With the once-blind man we enter His house to give God the praise, to renew our vow: "I do believe, Lord."

"The Lord looks into the heart," we hear today. Let Him find us, as Paul advises in today's Epistle, living as "children of light," trying always to learn what is pleasing to our Father.

[Dr. Scott Hahn
stpaulcenter.com](http://Dr.ScottHahn.stpaulcenter.com)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! (Philippians 4:5)

What is the value of taking up our cross, or suffering?

For [Christ Jesus'] sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him...that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (Phil 3:8-12)

I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church. (Col 1:24)

Rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. (1 Pet 4:13)

By enduring our own personal trials and hardships virtuously, we can unite our sufferings to the Passion of Christ. In doing so, we allow our suffering to share in Christ's act of redemption.

Christ became man in order to suffer and die for us and thereby save us from our sins. "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases" (Mt 8:17). In calling us to take up our daily cross, he asks us to "offer up" all our pain and suffering virtuously in imitation of him. By configuring ourselves to Christ and his redemptive act, we can give our suffering a redemptive character. Thus, through our suffering, trials, hardships, and labor, we can grow in holiness and closer to Christian perfection.

During his earthly ministry Christ took a special interest in the sick and suffering, visiting them and often healing them; he identified closely with those who suffer. By inviting us to take up our own personal crosses, he beckons us to identify ourselves ever more closely with his sufferings and share in his act of redemption.

There are two popular misconceptions of Christ's Redemption and our proper response to it. One understands that his Passion was a mere endurance of physical pain — the scourged, beaten, and crucified Christ as a victim because he did not have the power to stop his torturers; this view leaves us as mere observers who have no role in his suffering. The other views the Redemption as nothing more than an appeal to the subjective influence of the Passion on our lives. While it is true that we receive the benefit of Christ's Redemption, we are also called to share in his redemption by taking up our own crosses and uniting them to his.

From the Didache Bible

618 The cross is the unique sacrifice of Christ, the "one mediator between God and men." But because in his incarnate divine person he has in some way united himself to every man, "the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery" is offered to all men. He calls his disciples to "take up [their] cross and follow [him], "for "Christ also suffered for [us], leaving [us] an example so that [we] should follow in his steps." In fact Jesus desires to associate with his redeeming sacrifice those who were to be its first beneficiaries. This is achieved supremely in the case of his mother, who was associated more intimately than any other person in the mystery of his redemptive suffering.

Apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven. (St. Rose of Lima)

1505 Moved by so much suffering Christ not only allows himself to be touched by the sick, but he makes their miseries his own: "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases." But he did not heal all the sick. His healings were signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God. They announced a more radical healing: the victory over sin and death through his Passover. On the cross Christ took upon himself the whole weight of evil and took away the "sin of the world," of which illness is only a consequence. By his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering: it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive Passion.

1521 Union with the passion of Christ. By the grace of [the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick] the sick person receives the strength and the gift of uniting himself more closely to Christ's Passion: in a certain way he is consecrated to bear fruit by configuration to the Savior's redemptive Passion. Suffering, a consequence of original sin, acquires a new meaning; it becomes a participation in the saving work of Jesus.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church