



The Catholic Community of HOLY TRINITY PARISH BLACKBUTT NORTH



St John the Evangelist Church
Dickson Street Lambton Est. 1873



Corpus Christi Church
Platt Street Waratah Est. 1917



St Therese's Church
Royal Street New Lambton Est. 1954

◆ FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ◆ YEAR A ◆ 22 MARCH 2020 ◆

PARISH OFFICE

Street Address: 58 Victoria Street
NEW LAMBTON NSW 2305
Phone: 02 4979 1365
Email: triparish@mn.catholic.org.au
Website: www.holytrinityblackbutt.org.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/holytrinityblackbuttnorth

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 9:00AM to 3:30PM
Tuesday: 9:00AM to 3:30PM
Thursday: 9:00AM to 3:30PM

PARISH STAFF

Parish Administrator: Fr Sabu Adimakiyil
Lambton Presbytery: 02 4956 1953
Email: sabu.adimakiyil@mn.catholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Camillus Nwahia
Shortland Presbytery: 02 4955 9575
0469 829 125
Email: camillus.nwahia@mn.catholic.org.au

Parish Secretaries: Mrs Liza Ruitenbach
Ms Justine Atkinson

FEAST DAYS

25 Mar: The Annunciation of the Lord
5 Apr: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
9 Apr: Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper
10 Apr: Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord's Passion
25 Apr: ANZAC Day
3 May: Saints Philip and James, Apostles
14 May: Saint Matthias, Apostle
31 May: Pentecost Sunday

WE REMEMBER

Please Pray for:

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Michael Payne, Gerard Harvey, Fred Stanwell, Sheila Bell, Robert Watson, Paul Mowbray, Maureen Ashlett, Gary Herschel, Shelley Smith.

Recently Deceased: John Buchhorn, Jozefa Crnagoj, Raymond Russell Seymour, Allan Charles Baglee.

Anniversaries: Fr John Foley, Fr Patrick Grace, Fr William Hourigan.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.



By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

© Dianne Bergant CSA

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest: My brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Shepherd who comforts those in need.

Reader: For the Church, the light of Christ to the world. Let us pray to the Lord:

Reader: For an end to the pandemic, restored health to the sick, and for the safety of all. Let us pray to the Lord:

Reader: For those tormented by the darkness of fear and secrecy. Let us pray to the Lord:

Reader: We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who are living with disability: that together we can work to ensure the God given dignity of all is upheld, removing obstacles and overcoming the structures that exist preventing equality in our communities. Let us pray to the Lord:

Reader: For those who are shunned because of their faith. Let us pray to the Lord:

Reader: For an increase in faith for this gathered community. Let us pray to the Lord:

Reader: For those who have died and for those who grieve. Let us pray to the Lord:

Priest: God, the source of light, you hold out your arms to all who seek you. Hear our prayers and open our eyes that we may see the light of your presence among us. We ask this through Jesus the Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Sm 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.

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.)

GO AND WASH



IN THE POOL OF SILOAM

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.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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 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.