

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the first book of 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 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.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/: The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the  
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

**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 READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to 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.'

(...continued overleaf)



## **Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham**

**Parish House/Office: 9583 6161**

**Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au**

**Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au**

**Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox**

**Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne**

**Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy**

## **Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A**

**21<sup>st</sup> / 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020**



## ***Focus of the Readings...***

*There are two main points of today's gospel: the blind man's journey towards faith and belief, and the contrast between the attitudes of the blind man and his interrogators. Like the Samaritan woman at the well in last week's gospel, the blind man gradually moves from lack of faith to faith. First the blind man refers to the one who effected his cure as 'the man called Jesus', then he proclaims him a prophet and a man from God, and finally he declares, 'Lord, I believe' and worships him. This openness to the revelation of God acting in Jesus is contrasted with the 'blindness' of the Pharisees, who, though physically able to see, do not recognise Jesus. The blind man tellingly declares, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes and you don't know where he comes from!' John's use of the term 'the Jews' indicates that this group is from the religious leadership, the very people who are trained in the Law and ways of God. They, of all people, should know what is from God!*

**Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A**  
**21<sup>st</sup> / 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020**

**PRAYING FOR:** Fr Peter Robinson OAM PE,  
Sergio Mejia, Connie Abello, Chan Lim,  
*and all those who have died recently.*



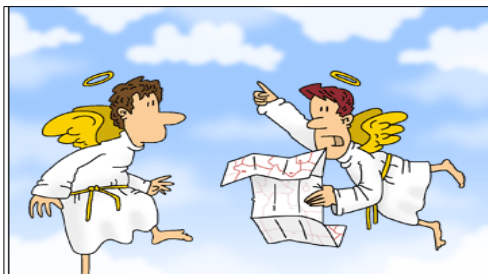
**We also remember the anniversaries of:**  
Frank Patterson, Mary Haggarty,  
Ana Hitscheld, Charlie Giarrusso, Doris Zahra,  
Fr John McGannon, Rosemarie Crozier,  
Peter Treadwell, Franjo Fajic.

**LAST WEEKS COLLECTION:**  
**Thanksgiving:** \$2304  
**Presbytery:** \$478  
**Loose:** \$530

**KNITTING STALL:** Due to the current climate (COVID 19), the knitting group has decided to postpone their stall for this weekend. Look out for a bumper stall in the next few months, jam packed with creative items like clothing, toys, scarves hats and loads more. Thank you again for your continued support of the group.

**OLA SCHOOL REUNION 1956 -1963:** Due to the current situation with COVID 19 we have decided to cancel the reunion. We will notify you all when a new date has been set. Thank you all. Sr Margaret Pelly.

**ROSTERS:** Can be collected from the Parish Office for Anointing Mass Refreshments, Purifiers and Arrangement of Flowers. Thank you once again for all you do.



PARDON ME, I'M NEW HERE AND ALL THE CLOUDS STILL LOOK THE SAME ... DO I TAKE A LEFT AT THE CUMULOUS OVER THERE OR THE CIRRUS A FEW MILES BACK?

**PARISH PRIEST:**  
Fr Alan Fox 9583 6161  
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:**  
Frances North 9583 6161  
Email: Frances.North@cam.org.au  
Christine Dunne 9583 6161

**PSYCHOLOGIST:**  
AnneMaree Eddy 9583 6161  
**PARISH OFFICE:** 9583 6161  
Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm  
Secretary: Lisa Harris  
Bookkeeper: Ann Fitzgerald  
Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

**PARISH SCHOOL:**  
**Our Lady of the Assumption** 9584 9488  
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques

**SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**MASS TIMES:**  
Saturday 6:30 pm  
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am  
Tuesday 6:00 pm  
Wednesday 9:15am  
Thursday, Friday 9.15 am  
Saturday 9.00 am

**COMMUNION SERVICE:**  
Monday 9.15 am

**SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**RECONCILIATION:**  
Saturdays: 9.30am & 6pm

**BAPTISMS:**  
Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. 6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism and Application Form available on our parish website.

**WEDDINGS:**  
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: 9583 6161

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But,  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques  
and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down  
and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at  
their neighbours in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to  
a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.  
So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing.

*Fr Richard Hendrick, OFM Cap.*  
*March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020*

*Gospel Reading continued from overleaf...*

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.