

As we come and worship, we remember the wurundjeri people, the original custodians of this land

FIRST READING Samuel 16:1.6-7. 10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

SALMO RESPONSORIALE

Il Signore e' il mio pastore: non manco di nulla.

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glorify 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.

Glorify to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

CANTO AL VANGELO

Gloria a te, o Cristo, Verbo di Dio! Io sono la luce del mondo, dice il Signore; chi segue me, avra' la luce della vita. Gloria a te, o Cristo, Verbo di Dio!

GOSPEL John 9: 1-14

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE LAST WEEK

1st Collection - Thanksgiving Offering.....\$837.00
- Loose Money.....\$315.00
2nd Collection - Presbytery.....\$353.00

LECTORS - THIS WEEK 03/04/2011

6.00pm (SAT) – MALTESE MASS (Selected)
9.00am (SUN) – C Brunetti & G Barbaro
10.30am (SUN) – A De Cata & N Sua

SPECIAL MINISTERS

MALTESE MASS (Selected)
P Sparano, R Pino & L Cavedon
P Nguyen, S Miano & J Kearney

LECTORS - NEXT WEEK 10/04/2011

6.00pm (SAT) - B Nadenbousch
9.00am (SUN) – L Calafiore & R DiGuglielmo
10.30am (SUN) - L Conte & E Bartlett

SPECIAL MINISTERS

N Ziino
D Biasibetti, P Leggiero & S Lobartolo
S Rottura, G Santinon & C McMahon

CHURCH CLEANERS

09/4/2011 A DiRico, M Pascuzzi, E Selso, L Pennacchia
G Ferrara

MONEY COUNTERS

04/03/2011 R & E Cornelious & M Williams
11/04/2011 J & J Kearney, E & K Barlett, C McMahon

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

RECENTLY DECEASED

Gaetano PAVANO, Giacomo DI BENEDETTO, Mario KLARIC,
Ferdinando SALVATORI (d. In Canada), Franco SANTORO (d. In BC Canada)

ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph BONELLO, Antonio, Giuseppe & Lucia NAPOLITANO, Giuseppe PINO,
Antonio, Lunella & Ines CALIGIURI, Pasquale, Angela & Mario LUNA, Gina DI DONATO,
Teresa & Gennaro FALVO, Famiglia MAZZARELLA, Carmelo & Santo RENNA,
Marco DI TULLIO, Paolo NASELLI, Salvatore, Santo & Rosaria LUMINATO

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

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SUNDAY MASS TIMES:

Sat 6.00pm - English
Sun. 9.00am - Italian
Sun. 10.30am - English

Fr Emmanuel Bonello–Parish Priest
Sr Estelita Manabo-Pastoral Associate
Mr Peter Chowne -School Principal
Mrs Liz Pistoni – Parish Secretary

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon. 9.10am Comm. Service
Tue. 10.00am Italian
Wed. 9.10am - English
Thur. 9.10am - English
Fri. 9.10am - English
Sat. 8.30am - English

Maltese Mass
1st Saturday of the Month 6.00pm

Baptisms – Sunday 12.00pm
Marriages - By Appointment



Reconciliation: Sat. 10.30am

4th Sunday of Lent, Year A

3 April 2011

Spiritual Blindness

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that he "came into the world in order that those who do not see may see and those who see may become blind" (John 9:39). This seems a rather strange statement. It seems almost a contradiction in terms.

Stories of Jesus giving sight to the blind are common in all four Gospels. But Jesus' statement in today's Gospel raises the difficult question; Why would Jesus be the cause of blinding the sighted? This declaration seems so out of character with Jesus' healing ministry.

Of course, the author of John's Gospel is not talking about physical blindness, but rather spiritual blindness – one of John's favorite motifs. In John, blindness refers to an inability to recognise the truth, and is usually a culpable condition. Unlike the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, John's Gospel tells of very few miracles: the changing of the water to wine (2:1-11); the healing of the officials son (4:46-54); the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda (5:1-9); the feeding of the five thousand (6:1-13); the raising of Lazarus (11:1-44); as well as today's story of the healing of the man born blind (9:1-12). These six or seven incidents are not even considered miracles *per se*, but rather "signs". They are manifestations of how God works in the world through the person of Jesus. To that degree, these signs are meant to be simply proofs of Jesus' divinity but rather indicators that God works through him.

The signs reveal the hidden glory of God. They show God's power at work in and through the person of Jesus, since he is God's Word incarnate in the world. More importantly, that power is understood as life-giving power, and Jesus' signs point to the fact that he offers life. It is appropriate to Jesus' life-giving work as the Incarnate Word of God that his deeds involve the physical universe and the elements necessary for life (bread, water, wine, healing of the human body, and restoration of life). These physical elements become through Jesus' ministry life-giving sacraments of encounter with God. The Gospel tells many refusing to believe in Jesus despite the signs he gave of divine power and wisdom. This sorry situation is similar to that predicted by the prophet Isaiah (John 12:37-38; cf. Isaiah 53:1) who was called in similar fashion: "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed" (Isaiah 6:9-10). In today's Gospel story, the refusal of the Pharisees to "see" what is being revealed in the healing of the man born blind demonstrates their own blindness. The healed man's blindness was congenital; the Pharisees' blindness is culpable. Physical blindness is open to the possibility of healing; self-induced spiritual blindness shuts off any such possibility.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Parish Leadership Team Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 April at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

THANK YOU FROM FR MANNY

Fr Manny would like to thank all parishioners and friends for their best wishes and prayers during his time in hospital.

MEMORIAL MASS

Wednesday 6 April 7.00pm – Filippo Pascuzzi (1 mth)

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Rosary for Giacomo DiBenedetto will be recited on Thursday 7 April at 10.15am, followed by Funeral Mass at 10.30am.

BAPTISM PREPARATION MEETING

The Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on Monday 4 April at 7.30pm in the Chapel.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday evening at 7.00pm in the Church both in English and Italian.

VIA CRUCIS

Venerdi' alle ore 7.00pm, in chiesa, la Via Crucis in Italiano e Inglese.

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI ASSISTENZA SOCIALE

INAS a Reservoir operera' tutti i Lunedi' nella Sala della Chiesa. Per ulteriori informazioni telefonare al: 9480 3094.

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER SCHOOL

Please note that St. Joseph the Worker School now has a new phone number. The old number will relay the call until the end of this year. We will announce when the old number will no longer exist. Please get used to using the school's new number 9469 7800.

LENTEN SERMONS IN MALTESE

Lenten Sermons in Maltese will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Church North Reservoir, on Monday and Tuesday, April 4 and 5 at 7.00pm. Mass, Sermon and Benediction. For further information please contact Fr Edwin Agius mssp, on 9387 7433.

EZERCIZZI BIL-MALTI

Se jinzammu Ezercizzi bil-Malti fil-Knisja ta' San Guzepp Haddiem, North Reservoir nhar it-Tnejn u t-Tlieta, 4 u 5 t'April, fis-7.00pm. Quddiesa, Preidka u Barka Sagramentali.

SHARE THE DREAM 3RD NATIONAL CATHOLIC FAMILY GATHERING

In conjunction with the Australian Catholic Bishop Conference, the Melbourne Archdiocese is hosting Share the Dream. Featuring international, and local speakers, practical workshops, music, prayer, a full children's program and concurrent youth conference. Share the Dream offers something for every member of the family. The event runs from 15-17 April 2011 at Xavier College in Kew. Details or to register: www.sharethedream.org.au

Fourth Sunday of Lent

See the dignity, hopes and dreams of people who live with disability and poverty. In this week's story, we met Bach and his daughter from Vietnam, who lived isolated from their community due to their disabilities until recently. Caritas Australia supports the health, livelihoods and social integration of 750 people with disabilities here including Bach, encouraging them to form Support Groups to gain social and employment skills. Your Project Compassion donation mobilises awareness and solidarity so that people with a disability have opportunities in life equal to all others.



WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS

The Melbourne Archdiocese's three WYD pilgrimage prices have dropped and are now priced at:

- The Real Madrid: \$4850
- Italian road trip: \$6390
- Footsteps of Jesus: \$6290

All registrations and final money need to be paid by Friday 15 April 2011.

(Please note that some pilgrimages may close before this date if all seats are filled.) Visit www.aoy.org.au or call 9412 3300 for more details.

THE CARMELITE CENTRE MELBOURNE

Saturday 9 April – Jesus on screen 10.30am – 4.00pm – a timely reflection day to prepare for Easter. Since the invention of cinema in the 1890s there has been an ever-increasing number of Jesus films. Most of us have seen some of them. What do we make of them? They are not gospels but they do visualize the gospels, helping our imaginations which have been stirred by listening to the word. The changes in religious thinking, spirituality and theological reflection are embodied in the films, so this is a rare opportunity to look at the different ways of thinking about and representing Jesus in the 20th century.

Fr Peter Malone msc will lead us through the portrayal of Jesus on screen – from the silent films through to Jesus of Nazareth. Fr Peter is the first president of SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communication and writer on theology, spirituality and cinema – well known to many of you.

Cost: \$30 (\$20 Concession)

For more information and to register:

<http://thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org/rj15/index.php/component/content/article/40-roknewspager-frontpage-2/144-jesus-on-screen>