



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

4th Sunday Lent. Year A 22 March 2020

Parish Priest:	Rev Martin Ashe
Assistant Priest:	Rev Shymon Thekkekalathungal
Parish Secretary:	Margaret Stanford [Tues, Thur 9am-12:30pm & Fri: 9am – 4pm]
Pastoral Associate:	Sandy Starbuck Tue, Wed, Fri [9401 6322]
Baptisms:	Christine Hall [Mon & Tues]
Sacraments:	Contact Parish Office [9412 8493]
Finance/Admin:	Monique Heckmann Tue, Wed, Thur [9412 8493]
Parish Office:	48 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda 3754
Postal address:	P.O. Box 221, Mernda 3754
Phone Number:	9412 8493
Email:	merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au
Website:	www.christthelightparish.org.au

Nazareth Centre

(St Joseph's Primary School)

44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda 3754

Weekend Masses: Nazareth Centre:

Sat. 5:30 pm Sun. 8 am Sunday 10:30 am

Children's Liturgy each Sunday 10.30am

St Mary's

2-20 Fir Street Whittlesea 3757

Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday 9:15 am

Weekend Mass: Sunday 10 am

Children's Liturgy each Sunday 10am

Reconciliation 2nd & 4th Saturdays 10 am

St Mary's

124 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd Kinglake 3763

Weekend Mass Sunday 8:30 am

St Joseph's

1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754

Weekday Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:15 am

Reconciliation 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays 10 am

*We pray for those who have died recently: Sophic Addamo Fr Peter Robinson
And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Stephen Caruana, Gwenda
Weedon, Agica Pavlovic, Edward & Olive Smith, Rudy & Irene David, Edwin,
Slorence & Bella D'Monte, Ronnie & Amu David, Sr Jean Marie McDonald
*We pray for those who are ill in our community: Edmond Cochrane, Michael
Masset**

*We pray for those who are welcomed into our community with Christ this
weekend:*

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice Jerusalem, and all who love
her. Be joyful, all who were in mourn-
ing; exult and be satisfied at her con-
soling breast.

First Reading: Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

Responsorial Psalm:

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

Second Reading:

St Paul to Ephesians 5:8-14

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: John 9:1-41

Next week: 5th Sunday of Lent Year A

First: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Second: St Paul to Rom 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Dear Parishioners,

As an Australian community, we journey through these uncertain and difficult times. Also as we combat the Coronavirus, we do so as members of Christ the Light Parish. For us this means that Christ is the light for our journey, especially as a light for these dark times, where anxiety and fear can affect us. In the Gospel today, the blind man who was in darkness was brought into the light through the healing touch of Christ. More importantly, in the face of ridicule and the rejection of religious leaders, not only does he experience physical sight again, he gradually comes to believe that Jesus Christ is truly the light that has come into the world. May our times of prayer and reflection enable us to trust in the closeness of Jesus Christ who accompanies us during these days and times. May his grace-filled presence give us the strength and the courage to be supportive of one another. While physical distancing is the reality of our present situation, it is still important to be conscious of our brothers and sisters who might feel isolated and alone. Through our e-mails, phone calls, and other caring small gestures, we seek to ensure that we're all part of the one community together at this time.

As a Parish, especially without our weekend Masses, let us try to make every effort to maintain communication with each other, especially through our website—which will include our newsletter every weekend. If you or any of your family are unwell or vulnerable and would like a priest to visit, Fr Shymon and I are available to visit you. With our newsletter, if you know of parishioners who might not be comfortable with digital technology, please download, print a copy and put it in their letterbox, or a copy can also be collected at the Parish Office on Tuesday. We will need to continue and learn how to adapt to these new circumstances as we move forward as a Parish community. Let us keep each other in our prayers as we go forward together.

With every blessing,
Fr Martin Ashe.

The Living Word

22 March 2020

First Reading 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

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.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. VI

(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.)**

Second Reading St Paul to Eph 5:8-14

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.

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

or longer form Jn 9:1-41

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.

Effective Wednesday 18 March

There is a suspension of public Masses

The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions:

*** Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.**

*** All other gatherings are suspended. For clarification of any concerns, please contact your local parish.**

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

If you would like to contact the parish office you can do so by calling

9412 8493 and leaving a message,

email: merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au or through our website:

www.christthelightparish.org.au and a team member will contact you as soon as possible

Government updates regarding COVID-19 can be found at

www.health.gov.au

Help line 1800 020 080 [24 hours 7 days a week]

WEBSITE: www.christthelightparish.org.au

From now on, we will be relying more and more on digital communication, especially our website. We hope to be kept informed in this way, updating news from our Archdiocese, our own Parish Life and our continuing growth in faith. Given our situation, this will be our main source of information. This newsletter will be easily accessible through our website.

MASS ONLINE Can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Please check the Catholic Melbourne website for more information about Mass online and other helpful information: www.cam.org.au/coronavirus

Assisting people who find it hard to use digital technology, eg. e-mails, websites, Mass online, would be extremely helpful at this time. If there are people willing to help those parishioners, please ring the Parish office.

Stations of the Cross will not be held at St Joseph's Church, and St Mary's Whittlesea, during this time.

The Lenten **St. Ignatius Spirituality Exercises** scheduled for the Fridays of Lent **have been cancelled.**

RECONCILIATION. The Second Rite of Reconciliation will **NOT** be taking place on Tuesday 31st March.

The First Rite of Reconciliation (Individual) will be celebrated on Wednesday 1 April, 7pm at St Joseph's Church, Mernda



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IS SUSPENDED until further notice. This week we were notified by Bishop Terrence R. Curtain that the Confirmations in April for Christ the Light Parish are suspended until further notice.

This is a section of the Bishop's letter:

"This afternoon Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli advised that he has now suspended all Confirmation Masses in the Archdiocese of Melbourne until further notice. While this decision will cause some inconvenience in our various communities, it is part of the Catholic Church's effort to co-operate with the whole of our country in seeking to protect our people and prevent the spread of the Covid-19 Coronavirus."

We ask that you continue to pray for all God's faithful in our Parish communities at this time of challenge and uncertainty.



We are a Child Safe Parish. We hold the care, safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility of our community.



Children's Liturgy during our Sunday 10am Mass (St Mary's Whittlesea) and 10.30am Mass (Nazareth Centre) will be suspended **until further notice** to protect our children and families and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

A PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH (Feast Day is 19th March)

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service: may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen.

PROJECT COMPASSION.

When we **Go Further Together** in love and compassion, the whole world thrives. You can donate through boxes and envelopes or by phoning 1800 024 413 or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

