



# Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent | Year A Cycle II | 15 March 2026



## Salve of God

In the strange and strikingly beautiful account of the healing of the man born blind, we find an iconic representation of Christianity as a way of *seeing*. The crowds are amazed, but the Pharisees - consternated and skeptical - accuse the man of being naïve and the one who healed him of being a sinner. With disarming simplicity the visionary responds: "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." This is precisely what all Christians say when they have encountered the light of Christ.

It was St. Augustine who saw in the making of the mud paste a metaphor for the Incarnation: the divine power mixing with the earth, resulting in the formation of a healing balm. When this salve of God made flesh is rubbed onto our eyes blinded by sin, we come again to see.

*The Word on Fire Bible* Bishop Robert Barron

## What is Blindness?

Today a man who was born blind is cured. This is such an amazing miracle that the Pharisees need to be assured that this is really the man who was blind, and that he was indeed blind from birth. The miracle hides some dark questions. Who is really blind and what is the cause of the blindness? What is blindness? The cured man is challenged by the Pharisees. He is surprised that they cannot see what he sees, namely that Jesus is 'a man from God'. He who was blind can see what those who are not blind cannot see. It is the Pharisees who are blind. They cannot see what Jesus has done because their only concern is the Sabbath regulation. They find fault rather than the love of God. Like us, the minutiae of their particular expectations and understandings prevent them from seeing the goodness of other people. They are blind to the presence of God. Openness to God requires us to see beyond ourselves and to move out of our comfort zones. Indeed, if we look for what is wrong that is what we will see. Let's strive to see things as God sees them. The pure in heart shall see God.

*God's Word* Bishop Greg Homeming OCD

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# Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

## A Microcosm of the Spiritual Life

The story of the man born blind is a microcosm of the spiritual life. "As he [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth." Jesus responds by doing something a little weird: he makes a mud paste and rubs it on the blind man's eyes. And then Jesus tells the man to wash in the pool of Siloam.

When the man comes back able to see, his neighbours are confused. Some say it's the same person, and others say it just looks like him. This is wonderful. Once you've put on the Lord Jesus Christ, you're changed in every aspect of your life to the point where you may seem odd and different to others.

But that wasn't the end of the story. It then takes a dramatic turn. The Pharisees interrogate the healed man. It becomes clear that Jesus healed him on a Sabbath day, and so they condemn Jesus. They throw the formerly blind man out, but Jesus looks for him. He asks the man: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

Jesus wants us to put every ounce of our trust in him - and our vision will deepen. This in many ways is the heart of the matter: de-centre your ego and re-centre it on Christ. And now that you see, believe!

*The Word on Fire Bible* Bishop Robert Barron

## Wake Up

The Jesuit priest and theologian Fr Anthony de Mello said that spirituality means waking up. He said, "Most people, even though they don't know it, are asleep. They're born asleep, they live asleep, they marry in their sleep, they breed children in their sleep, they die in their sleep, without ever waking up. They never understand the loveliness and the beauty of this thing that we call human existence."

This is a controversial statement designed to make us think, perhaps to shake us out of our complacency, to wake us up to the reality that Jesus offers us when he says he is the light of the world. In today's Gospel, when Jesus cures the blind man, he heals him physically and then wakes him spiritually. He challenges us to ask in what ways we are blind. Do we need to have our eyes opened, to wake up and see the Christ light? The Bible is an invitation to a new way of seeing. An encounter with Christ is always an invitation to see things differently. For some of us, this can involve "unlearning" many things we may have previously understood or been taught.

*Sunday Living Word* Majellan Family Media

## Bequests

Have you ever thought of remembering OLR parish in your Will? While we have a great deal of assets here in the parish including Lakesea Apartments, we now must begin a series of loans as we pay out those in Lakesea when they terminate their Loan Licence agreements. Your generosity would enable us to pay off this loan and equally importantly enable us to continue to best serve the needs of all in our parish community now and into the future. Geoff O'Reilly, a Solicitor on our Parish Finance Committee (Nash, Allen, Williams & Wotton 4332 3588), has generously agreed to provide a Free Will to those bequeathing \$10,000 or more to our parish.

**Masses:** Saturday Vigil 5pm | Sunday 8am & 9:30am | Reynolds Court 11am | Maronite Mass 5pm

**Weekday Masses:** Monday Communion Service 9am | Tuesday - Thursday 9am | Friday 11:45am  
Saturday 9am | Reynolds Court Wednesday 10am

**Reconciliations:** Saturdays 9:30am - 10am | 4pm - 4:30pm **Liturgy of the Hours:** Saturday 8:40am

**Rosary:** Monday-Thursday 8:35am | Friday 11:20am | Saturday 9:30am

**Holy Souls Crusade Prayer Group:** Tuesday 9:30am **Cenacle Prayer Group:** Wednesday 9:30am

**Christian Meditation Group:** Friday 10:30am - 11:30am Reynolds Room



# A Beacon of Faith, Hope & Love

## Walking into the Wilderness Lenten Reflection Mornings

*Walking in the Wilderness* Lenten resource calls us to a deeper experience of communion, participation and mission, growing in reverence for the sacred mystery of our faith and the Eucharist. Take time to pause and ponder on our earthly and spiritual lives before God. Thursdays after 9am Mass in the Reynolds Room. All invited! For more information call 4332 2216.

## Lenten Reflection Day

SRE Catechists, their friends, and parishioners are invited to join the CCD for a Lenten Reflection Day on Friday 27 March 9.45am-2.00pm in the Parish Centre. Join us as we walk the sacred path of the Cross this Lent, and prayerfully reflect on Christ's journey of love, sacrifice and hope. Morning tea and lunch provided. To register, please email [registrations@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:registrations@bbcatholic.org.au) or call 02 8379 1643 by Monday 23 March.

## Parish Bus to Ordinations

All are invited to attend the Ordinations to the Priesthood of Tán Nguyen, Shayne D'Cunha and Huy Tran on Wednesday 29 April at 7pm at Waitara Cathedral. Those who would like to travel on the parish bus please book through the office – limit of 22 passengers. Pick-up from the Church carpark at 4:30pm, return approximately 10pm. Please pray for Tán, Shayne and Huy as they prepare for their Ordinations.

## Palms for Palm Sunday

As of recent years we ask again that if anyone could bring palm fronds or cut branches in for our Palm Sunday celebrations it would be appreciated. If you would like to bring olive branches for your own use that would be fine too. Large palm branches for decorating the Sanctuary would need to be in by Thursday 26 March, and smaller pieces by Friday 27 March. Thank you.

## Presentation of Reconciliation Candidates

Last weekend the children in the First Reconciliation programme were presented to the parish at the Masses. Please pray for the children as they continue their preparations.



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 | Ephesians 5:8-14 | John 9:1-41**

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

**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.



# Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

## Please Note

### 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

This Thursday 19 March Fr Rosan will celebrate his first anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. Blessings to you Fr Rosan!

### Congratulations Cooper Roger

Cooper is being Received into the Catholic Church this Sunday at 9:30am Mass. Welcome Cooper!

### Feast Days this Week

St Patrick 17 March, St Joseph 19 March.

### Nursing Home Mass

Mass will be held for residents at Nareen Gardens Bateau Bay on Tuesday at 10.30am.

### Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross is being held on Fridays of Lent after the 11:45am Mass.

### Lenten Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is being held on Saturdays of Lent after 9am Mass, for one hour.

### Men's Social Group

This Wednesday 18 March the Men's Social Group will get together again for lunch and a chat. All are welcome to join us at 12 noon at Digger's Club The Entrance. Enquiries to Lui 4388 9510.

### Divine Retreat Centre

The Divine Retreat Centre offers a variety of programmes each month including Weekend Retreats and Outreach Ministries. Held at the main Centre at 160 Hensons Road Somersby and various locations. Contact 4372 1598, drcsydneyrego@gmail.com or go to [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org)

### Project Compassion

Please remember Project Compassion this Lent - boxes are on the information tables.

## Keep Us in Your Prayers

**Recently Deceased:** Imelda Bourke, Liam Gilmore, Bill Trodden, Josephine McGrath, Antoni Szczur, Lin Ortiz, Sheila Tobin, Manda Vrtaric.

**Funerals:** The funeral of Imelda Bourke will be held here next Friday afternoon at 2pm. Please pray for Imelda Bourke and her family.

**Anniversaries:** Gregory Cooper, George Robinson.

**Remembrances:** Jill O'Sullivan, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, Sam & Carmen Ghirxi, Martin Ghirxi, John Giutronich, Mario Cauchi, Delma Clarke, Richard Falzon, Nona Redman, Fr Michael Kelly, Steve Gribbin, Terry O'Sullivan, John & Ella Tyrell, Ana Naraj (birthday), Michael Langley, Simon Butcher and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**Sick:** Susie Reyes, Harry McCarthy, Josephine McMahan, Lynette Falken, Steve Bond, Fr David Taylor, Lynne White, Fr Geoff Bugden, Fr Brogan, Julie Fletcher, Walter Knoke, Pat McCudden, Linda Read, Rod Slater, Pam Elliott, Janine Harpley, Patrick Yeo, Stjepan Tuka, Pauline Fowler, Anne Knoke, John McClement, Emma Horton, Kelly Will.

**Welcome Newly Baptised:** Ripley Lowe.

## Our Lady of the Rosary



# Sacred Gifts

## Welcome!

We open on Saturdays before and after the 5pm Vigil Mass and Sundays before and after the 9:30am Mass.

Also weekdays by appointment.

You'll find us in the foyer of the Church.

**4332 2216**