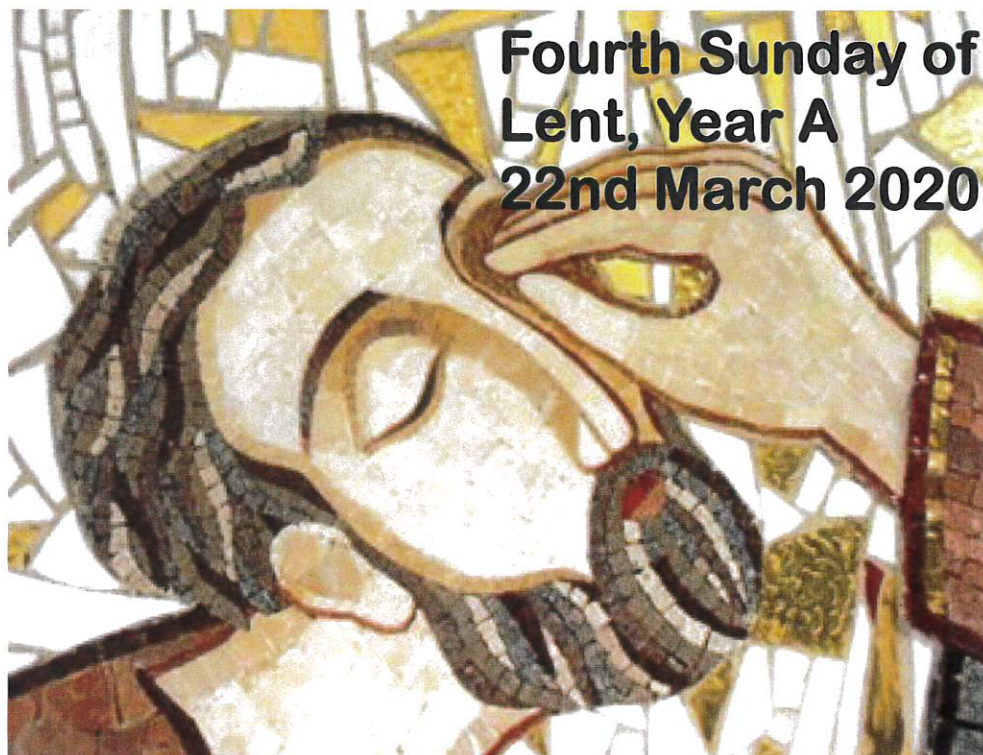


# Wyong Catholic Parish

**St Cecilia's Church &  
St John Fisher Mass Ctr**

Under the Pastoral Care of the  
Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy  
Trinity (SOLT)



**Fourth Sunday of  
Lent, Year A  
22nd March 2020**

## **Reflection for 22nd March 2020**

In the Gospel of John, the image of light is often used as a metaphor to depict Jesus, who presents us with the illuminating Truth whereby we are set free from the darkness of “the world”, and the blindness of sin. Jesus, as the Divine light, brings vision to the man born blind, in miraculous fashion. To each of us, he offers the grace of vision – not that we may see this world with greater clarity or sharpness, but rather that we may catch a glimpse into the eternal realities which lie *beyond* this world – that we may perceive the hidden presence of God in all things, and in the infinitude which lies beyond *all* things.

*Reproduced from God's Word 2020: Daily Reflections, published by St Pauls Publications, Strathfield.*

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**Next week's Reading: 5th Sunday of Lent Readings: 29th March 2020**

**First Reading** Ezek 37:12-14; **Second Reading** Rom 8:8-11; **Gospel** Jn 11:1-45

You may view next week's readings by visiting this web site: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/>



## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

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

### Second Reading 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 John 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 John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him."

He said, "I am." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.

Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

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Dear Parishioners

We are very saddened that we are unable to celebrate Mass with you for the time being. Please be mindful there are other ways we can practise our faith through, personal/family prayer and devotion, scripture reading, watching Mass on TV or online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>) and reciting the Rosary.

Please take the time to read and reflect on the attached letter from Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD, JCL March 2020. Bishop of Broken Bay.

St Cecilia's Church and the parish office will remain open.

Sunday: St Cecilia's Church will open at 8am  
Exposition from 9am to 10am.

Weekdays: as per usual the church will be open from 8am to 9.30am, after 9.30am the side chapel will remain open.

Office hours remain the same (see back of bulletin)

Thank you for your understanding.

May God Bless you always.

Fr Raul and Fr Alex

## Parish Lenten Preparation will continue

St Cecilia's Church Friday evenings  
in Lent 20th & 27th March and 3rd April 2020.

6.30pm Stations of the Cross

7pm - 8pm The Light is on  
(Adoration & Reconciliation)



## Parish Masses and Activities

### 1. All public Masses are hereby suspended until further notice.

Accordingly, this includes a dispensation for all the Faithful in the Diocese from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

You can honour your Sunday obligation by participating in a time of prayer within the home, reading the Scriptures or watching Mass on television or online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>).

### 2. Palm Sunday Crosses

Thank you to all our regular Palm Cross makers, unfortunately this year we have decided not to make our Palm Crosses.

Palm leaves will still be available at Mass on Palm Sunday.

### 3. The Sacrament of Confirmation.

All programs of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation are suspended until the schedule can be reviewed.

### 4. Men's Breakfast

We wish to advise you the Men's Breakfast planned for 30th March has been postponed for the time being.

### 5. In respect to the forth coming Holy Week and Easter Liturgies

Bishop Anthony is currently considering how best these may be celebrated in the current circumstances and will advise in the coming weeks.

## Solemnity of The Annunciation of the LORD, Wednesday 25th March

Mary's gracious acceptance of the stunning news announced to her by the angel Gabriel, was a pivotal point in salvation history. She heroically and selflessly consents to participate in, and thus to make possible, the supreme mystery of the Incarnation by which alone we are saved. It is well to reflect deeply upon the words of our Lady: *'Be it done unto me according to your Word'*.

*God's Word 2020: Daily Reflections, published by St Pauls Publications, Strathfield.*

## Excerpts from Pope Francis' Lenten Message 2020

Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God's eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will.

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## Emergency Priest Contact

Fr Raul ph: 0450 115 099 Fr Alex ph: 0432 947 245

## Parish Contacts

Parish Administrator Fr Raul Balute, SOLT  
ph:0450 115 099 email: frraul\_solt@yahoo.com

Assistant Priest Fr Alex Barnedo, SOLT  
ph:0432 947 245

Parish Coordinator Joanne Helm ph: 0424 763 734  
email: jo.helm@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Secretary Helen Bath ph:4352 1011

**Parish Office** 23 Byron Street Wyong

Phone: 4352 1011 Po Box 385 Wyong 2259

**Office Hours:** Mon to Thurs 9.30am to 2.30pm  
& Fri 9.30am to 12pm

**Parish Email:** [wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

**Parish Website:** <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/wyong/>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish](http://www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish)

**Parish Pastoral Council email:**

[wyongcatholicparishppc@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wyongcatholicparishppc@yahoo.com.au)

**All public Masses are hereby suspended until further notice. For regular updates please provide the parish office with your email address 4352 1011.**

**Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass Times**

St Cecilia's Church  
23 Byron St Wyong

St John Fisher Mass Centre  
Hicks Lane Tumbi Umbi

**Weekday Mass**

St Cecilia's :  
St John Fisher:

**Eucharistic Adoration**

St Cecilia's  
St John Fisher  
St Cecilia's 1st Friday of the month

**Reconciliation/Confession**

**By appointment..**

St Cecilia's  
St John Fisher

**Anointing of the Sick (First Friday)**

St Cecilia's  
St John Fisher

**Monthly Mass**

St Barnabas Yarramalong 1st Sunday

Filipino Mass Every 3rd Sunday

**Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

Sat St Cecilia's & Wed St John Fisher

**Devotion to the Divine Mercy**

St Cecilia's  
St John Fisher

Fr Raul/Fr Alex and the Legion of Mary visit **Wyong Nursing Home** 2nd Wednesday of the month and **Berkley Vale Nursing home** 3rd Wednesday of the Month

**Meetings/prayer groups**

St Cecilia's Choir practice  
St Cecilia's Rosary Group  
St Cecilia's Legion of Mary

**Liturgy Meeting**  
**Catechist Meeting**

## Birthdays and Anniversary's

### Birthdays

March..... David Crass, Julie Travers, John McCabe

## Keep Us In Your Prayers

**Prayer: The most valuable gift you can give someone.**

**Sick:** Len Miller, Victor Gibbs, Harriet Powell, Danae Roe, Peter Ford, Harry Hall, Michael Briggs, Christine Heffernan, Jennese Thompson, Martin Wicks, Leeann Hazelton, Catherine Amey, Philip Dwyer, Bernadette Kiely, Ross Tollow, Steve Durnford, Ann Durnford, Maureen Mulheron, Angela Watts, William Martin, Terence (Ted) Dafter.

**Rec Deceased:** Isidro Barrios

**Anniversary:** Reg Preston, Barbara G Brigoli, Jose Castanares

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.



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18 March 2020

*To the People of God in the Diocese of Broken Bay*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The historic and momentous times in which we live have impelled the Australian Government to issue today new preventative measures to limit the transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus as a matter of public health emergency.

A public health emergency of the kind that we are experiencing is a rare event. Today the Prime Minister reminded us that an event such as the COVID-19 outbreak has not been seen for 100 years. Given the directions provided by the Government and after a most careful consideration of the circumstances of our own Diocese and its various parish communities, it is with great regret and a heaviness of heart, that I share with you the following:

Effective from Friday 20 March, in the Diocese of Broken Bay:

1. **All public Masses are hereby suspended until further notice.** Accordingly, this includes a dispensation for all the Faithful in the Diocese from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation (cc.87 §1; 1247).  
It will be possible to celebrate the weekday Mass for Thursday 19 March, The Solemnity of St Joseph provided that the congregation does not exceed 100.
2. **The celebration of Holy Mass by the priest privately is to continue** and may include, if possible, the assistance of an adult minister. Previously scheduled intentions, including the Sunday Mass *pro populo* may be fulfilled in this manner.
3. The Faithful are encouraged to keep the Lord's Day holy and celebrate Sunday as a domestic church by taking time to pray together as a household (c. 1248 §2).
4. **The Sacrament of Baptism:** Baptisms are still to be celebrated provided that the number attending does not exceed 100. It is important that thought be given to providing families the option of postponing the Baptism of their child. Those families who wish to proceed with the celebration should be advised to limit the number of family and guests attending (preferably immediate family and godparents only). Baptisms must be staggered so that only one child is baptised in the one event, with the water refreshed for each ceremony.

**MOST REVEREND ANTHONY RANDAZZO BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY**  
PO Box 340, Pennant Hills NSW 1715, Australia P +612 8379 1614 E bishop@bbcatholic.org.au

[www.bbcatholic.org.au](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au)

5. **The Sacrament of Confirmation:** The Government's announcement today will impact on the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and the schedule for the same. I will consider how to attend to this in the coming weeks. All programmes of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation should be suspended until the schedule can be reviewed.
6. **Funerals** in a church remain possible provided that the number in the congregation does not exceed 100. In accepting bookings for funerals, it will be important that Parishes work with the Funeral Director to so ensure this. The advice is that those attending should be limited to immediate family. Some Funeral Directors are already making arrangements for live-streaming of the funeral so that the number of people in the church is kept to a minimum.
7. **Weddings:** It may be that weddings be postponed. However, should a wedding proceed it will be limited to the same provisions of no more than 100 in the church.
8. **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Our churches are to remain open for the availability of the First Form of the Rite of Confession in the usual way. The Second Form of the Rite of Confession should be suspended during this time.

I am aware that a number of our Parishes have suspended their programmes of preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This has been effected in accord with the principles applied to school gatherings. Some of our Parishes, however, have already completed their programmes of preparation and are ready to celebrate the Sacrament. In this event, the following advice is offered:

  - a. It would be unfortunate, having completed the programme, that the momentum for the celebration of the Sacrament be interrupted.
  - b. A gathering of people for the Sacrament – in the Second Form of the Rite- should be suspended as it is most likely families will express significant concern about this.
  - c. As an alternative, children, supported by their parents, might be invited to individual Confession in the church over a period of some hours on a scheduled day, so that the number of people in the confined space of the church is kept to a minimum.
  - d. If this is not possible due to local circumstances, then the liturgical celebration should be suspended to a later time in the year.
9. **Sacrament of Anointing.** In the celebration of the Sacrament, priests are given permission to lay on hands by holding them above rather than upon the head. Anointing the forehead is sufficient
10. **In respect to the forthcoming Holy Week and Easter Liturgies** I am currently considering how best these may be celebrated in the current circumstances and will advise in the coming weeks. I will discuss this with the Council of Priests which is to meet next Tuesday 24 March.

**11. As the community of the Church in Broken Bay, I urge you to pray.** It has always been our tradition to turn to God in prayer when difficulties arise, especially when a health emergency of this kind affects so many people. I commend to you in a particular way the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Rosary, which is a Marian prayer, has Christ at its centre. When we pray the Rosary, we meditate upon the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. In the words of Saint John Paul II, *"With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer."* (Rosarium Virginis Mariae I)

As you pray the Rosary, I encourage you to ask for the grace that we need in our Church and in our world at this time. Be confident in your prayers and trust that the Mother of Our Lord will accompany you and lead you to her son, Jesus. Recall the words from the *Memorare* prayer, and be inspired not to lose hope: *"Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided."*

The Rosary is a marvelous prayer that can be prayed alone, in families, or in small groups. Through this marvelous prayer, may Mary's motherly compassion keep our whole family safe from every danger. Through her intercession may all the people of Australia be sheltered from harm. And may people everywhere profit by the voice of Catholics united in prayer.

My brothers and sisters, we are living in uncharted times with implications about which we are uncertain. It is essential that our communities of Faith remain beacons of hope during this difficult and challenging time.

**It is important that our churches do not close** and that they remain open for prayer and personal devotion. There are many ways by which a small number of people in our parishes may still wish to gather, remaining compliant with the law – for small group Rosary, for Exposition and Benediction, for the Way of the Cross. Indeed, I encourage small groups to use our churches for prayer, especially on a Sunday when the Blessed Sacrament may be exposed for Adoration, according to the norms governing such a practice.

Our diocesan Office for Evangelisation is currently preparing pastoral resources for use in the face of the limitations for gathering.

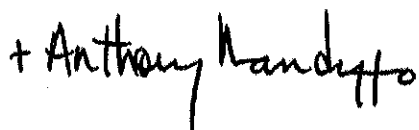
It is also important that our Parish offices remain open and be available for our parishioners. It is critical that all our parishes consider the most creative ways by which to retain communication with their people.

In naming this emergency, it is essential that each member of the community takes responsibility for maintaining good personal hygiene. It is also very important that those members of our community who require assistance: the young; the elderly; people with disabilities; the poor and the sick; the homeless; are cared for and not abandoned.

It is also vital that we remain good and responsible citizens. Please do not panic or fret unnecessarily. By remaining calm and adhering to Government Health recommendations, we play an important role in the community, as together we are vigilant in our attempt to keep all people safe and healthy.

Over the coming weeks, the personnel of our Diocese will continue in their contact with you and ensure that you are fully apprised of any developments which we are constantly monitoring.

Sincerely yours in Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Anthony Randazzo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD, JCL  
Bishop of Broken Bay