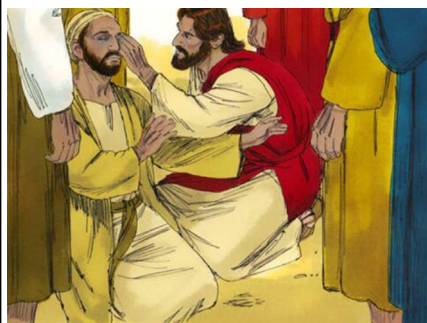


The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?



**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Key words and phrases: “I am the light of the world.”**

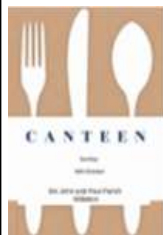
**To the point:** Like many of our Lenten readings, this gospel plays with themes of light and darkness, seeing and blindness. Here, Jesus makes clear that it is easier for God to heal physical blindness than wilful refusal to see God at work. Most of us struggle with some level of spiritual blindness; after all, most of us do not get to witness these clear, decisive miracles of Jesus’s time on earth. God does not always operate in ways that are easy for us to perceive. The Pharisees, though, are choosing blindness. Having their eyes opened will challenge a system that keeps them comfortably in power. What God reveals is not always comfortable or easy. We are sometimes called to sacrifice and to use our positions of privilege to

advocate for others in unpopular ways. But if we want to see, God can heal our spiritual blindness, too.

**Making Connections**

**Between the readings:** The first reading contains a much more mundane form of blindness. Jesse merely overlooks David, assuming his youngest son cannot be the one chosen by God. But God is clear that his perception is not the same as ours; what God values is not the same as what we value. The second reading continues the themes of light and darkness, exhorting us to choose light over darkness –which is to say, sight over blindness.

**To experience:** The Pharisees are comfortable with their blindness, unable to recognize how much they don’t see. We, too, are often content to remain in ignorance, especially when God’s light reveals truth that is uncomfortable. We know God sides with the oppressed, and so we’d rather not know when we’ve benefited from oppression. This is the work of Lent, though: all the prayer and fasting and almsgiving are meant to illumine places where our lives are keeping us from God, and to aid us in turning away from them, uncomfortable though it may be.



Welcome to **CANTEEN!** Come on down to our parish hall on **Sunday 19th March after the 7.30am, 9.00am and 10.30am masses.** Say hello to our amazing parishioners, make new friends and have a great time while purchasing nominally-priced home cooked snacks and meals, or enjoying a complimentary cuppa. We hope you can spare a few minutes after Mass for great food, fellowship and community building. In keeping with the season of Lent, all proceeds will be donated to Caritas. **If you wish to bring a dish, volunteer or enquire, call or text Maria (0430 280 122) or Marisa (0458 175 162).**

**Easter Busy Bee Saturday 25 March 7.30am**

Many hands are needed. If you have an hour to spare to freshen up our parish grounds for our Easter celebrations, would be much appreciated. Please bring along your gardening tools. **Any questions contact Peter Flanagan 0409 378949.**

| DATE        | CHURCH  | Parish Centre   |
|-------------|---|---|
| Mon 20 Mar  | 9:00am Mass/ 9:30am Rosary<br>7:00pm Choir Practice   | 6:30pm PA Integrated 3 – Rm 3<br>7:30pm SVdP – Rm 1   |
| Tue 21 Mar  | 9:00am Mass/ 9:30am Rosary  | 3:30pm RE Classes – Hall & All Rooms<br>6:00pm CFR – Hall & Kitchen<br>7:00pm RCIA - Rm 3                           |
| Wed 22 Mar  | 9:00am Mass / 9:30am Rosary<br>11:00am ARISE Charismatic Prayer Group<br>7:00pm <b>Second Rites of Reconciliation</b> | 9:30am Craft Group – Rm 3<br>11:00am ARISE – Hall<br>6:00pm CFR – Hall & Kitchen<br>7:30pm Encounter Evening – Rm 3 |
| Thu 23 Mar  | 9:00am Mass/ 9:30am Rosary  | 6:00pm CFR – Hall & Kitchen<br>6:30pm PA Integrated 3 –Rm 3   |
| Fri, 24 Mar | 11:15am <b>Stations of the Cross</b><br>12:00pm Mass<br>7:00pm <b>Stations Of The Cross</b>                           | 9:00am Growing Vine – Rm 3 & Kitchen<br>1:45pm Legion of Mary – Rm 2  |
| Sat 25 Mar  | 9:00am Mass<br>9:30am Recon/Rosary<br>5.30pm Vigil Mass   | 10.30am Men’s Group Bible Sharing—DWWJ  |
| Sun 26 Mar  | 7.30am Mass<br>9.00am Mass<br>10.30am Mass<br>2:30pm Divine Mercy   | 1st Reading Ezek : 37: 12 – 14<br>2nd Reading Rom : 8: 8 – 11<br>Gospel Reading Jn : 11: 1 – 45                     |

### MINISTRY TEAM

**Parish Priest:** Fr Thai Vu ([pp@willettoncatholicparish.org.au](mailto:pp@willettoncatholicparish.org.au))

**Asst Priest:** Fr Carmine-John Millen (Fr C.J) ([cj.millen@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:cj.millen@perthcatholic.org.au))

**Baptisms:** Mary de Wever (9310 2426)

**R.E. Co-Ordinator:** Magdalene Heldt (9312 6952)

**Safeguarding Officers:** Geraldine Richards (0405319824); [sgo@willettoncatholicparish.org.au](mailto:sgo@willettoncatholicparish.org.au)

**Secretary:** Lyna Chan (9332 5992)

**John Paul Care:** Rosa Pasquale (0417 994 676)

**Please note.....Altar servers** who wish to serve for Holy Thursday evening Mass and the Vigil Mass on Saturday please place your name on the list in the church foyer. **A training session for these two ceremonies will be held at the church on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm and attendance is compulsory.** There will be a list for the Easter Sunday Masses. Please place your names if available to serve.

### ARISE Charismatic Prayer Group

This Wednesday, 22 March, at 11.30 am start, we have Ciaran Byrne leading worship. Elena Reidy is the presenter. She will be speaking on "He's after our hearts." The meeting will end around 1.30 pm with a light lunch fellowship in Lent. Prayer ministry is available. All are welcome.

### Lenten Midweek Retreat

**"UNPACKING LENT – WHERE TO FROM HERE?"** A mid-week evening retreat to prepare us for Easter. At Sts John & Paul Parish, Willetton, with Rev Fr Gregory Donovan, \$30.00pp includes light refreshments. **For info or registration, phone Charles 0413 755 799 or email [catholicfaithrenewal@gmail.com](mailto:catholicfaithrenewal@gmail.com).**

This week, RCIA candidates and catechumens will be attending the mid-week retreat (as above) with Fr Greg Donovan.

**Please pen the date and time down in your diary....**

### The Second Rite of Reconciliation - Communal Reconciliation Wednesday 22 March at 7pm

The second form of the sacrament of penance is a communal liturgical celebration from beginning to end. It begins with the community listening to the word of God. The homily emphasises our need for repentance and the infinite mercy of God. During the examination of conscience, the assembly reflects together on where and how they have fallen short of their baptismal commitment to follow Christ. The individual confession and absolution that follows is communal too in that the penitents approach the confessors in full view of all present. The priests stand at appropriate points around the worship space in such a way that penitents can be seen but not heard by others. Those who wish to confess their sins approach one of the priests. While no restriction is placed on the individual's confession, good manners and common sense dictate that people limit the time they spend with confessors. More time for integral confession and spiritual guidance is available at the first rite. It is a moving experience to witness fellow Christians humbling themselves by publicly approaching a confessor for forgiveness. As they do, we pray for them, that they will know the fullness of God's grace and mercy. After the confessions, the ceremony concludes with a proclamation of praise, a prayer of thanksgiving and a blessing. **These are integral to the celebration, not an optional extra!** (Liturgy lines by Elizabeth Harrington: The Second Rite of Reconciliation. Copyright-Liturgy Brisbane).



**There will be many priests assisting us, so please invite your family and friends for this service as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.**

**Catholic Doctors and Nurses Networking Lunch: Saturday 1st April from 1pm, Maroosh Restaurant 150 Great Eastern Highway, Ascot WA.** Special guest Dr Eamonn Mathieson, head of the Australian Catholic Medical Association.

### Catholic Doctors & Nurses networking luncheon 2023, Ascot, Sat 1st Apr 2023, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm AWST |

**Humanitix** One of the aims of the project is to form a WA branch of the ACMA, and also provide Catholic Medical Professionals with legal advice and defence (we have a partner organisation we can refer to individuals suffering discrimination on religious and conscience grounds, and we are looking to strengthen this capabilities further).

### St Vincent De Paul - Piety Stall News

The Piety Stall has the following: **God's Word 2023** - contains **Daily Reflections on the Gospel** and is a good way of reflecting on Lent and spiritual reflections throughout the year. These have been reduced to **\$15**. Only a few copies left. **Bibles** - the NRSV Bible - meaning the "New Revised Standard Version" a popular Bible for **\$36**, and the Good News Bible **\$40**. **Missals** - Sunday Missals - 2 types **\$30-40** and Weekday Missals **\$80**. Easter Cards and Lenten and Easter Books. **Volunteers are required on the Piety Stall. If you would like to find out more, please contact Linda on 0402 421 526.**

The annual ICCP (Indonesian Catholic Community of Perth) Food Fair will be held on **Sunday, 25 March 2023 from 11.00 to 14.00 at Corpus Christi College** - Junior School, Dean Rd, Bateman. All kinds of Indonesian authentic food will be available. For more info please contact Jeane on 0405 110 731

**Barry and the Baker family would like to extend their gratefulness for all the love, support and guidance during their difficult time. A personal thanks to all who were able to attend Trish's memorial mass. God Bless.**