



SUNDAY 15TH MARCH, 2026. 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A Reflection on the Gospel - (John 9:1-41)

Last week, we journeyed with the woman of Samaria from bewilderment to deep insight into Jesus' identity and mission and to a strong personal faith commitment.

This week, we are invited on a faith journey with a man born blind and with the varying groups of participants in the drama. All have the opportunity of coming to faith. Ironically, the blind come to see, both physically and spiritually, while those who are gifted with physical sight remain in spiritual darkness.

In healing the man born blind, Jesus performs the sixth of eight powerful actions or "signs" in John's Gospel that reveal God's power at work in Jesus and in the lives of those who seek life. The "signs" invite the reader/hearer/viewer to accept Jesus and his revelation of God and God's purposes.

Time features significantly in the story. Jesus heals the blind beggar on the Sabbath. The Jerusalem authorities have already raised objections about Jesus' Sabbath healing activity (John 5). Once again, they object that he is failing to observe the Sabbath. They label him a sinner. Ironically, in the final authoritative analysis, it is they who "remain in their sins".

This story reminds us of the need to check our assumptions and, if necessary, to revise our thinking and action. It also reminds us to accept the fact that we can be wrong about things we have always believed. It invites us to be open to seeing differently or from a new perspective. Jesus' disciples, the parents of the man born blind, his neighbours, the religious authorities all operate out of unchecked assumptions. For that reason, they mostly come to the wrong conclusions. Only those willing to admit that they were mistaken have any chance of coming to faith.

In the present global political climate, admitting that one "got it wrong" seems to be anathema. And yet, from a Gospel perspective, it is a sign of real strength. In the common estimation the man was blind, so that he or his parents must have sinned. Not so, according to Jesus. From the perspective of the authorities, Jesus

heals on the Sabbath and is therefore a sinner. Not so, from Jesus' point of view. The man was born blind and so needs others to speak for him. Not so, say his parents, he can speak for himself. He does indeed speak for himself and quite eloquently, to the chagrin of the religious authorities.

He presents them with the truth about Jesus but they refuse to accept the word of an outcast. Their reaction is violent: they drive him out. But Jesus goes in search of him and leads him to yet deeper levels of faith and understanding.

You may like to read the story once more and put yourself in the place of the different characters. It seems to me that there is a little bit of each character in every one of us.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for the sick of the parish.
We pray for **Sr. Shirley Kimball and Charlie Micallef** who died recently and for **Michael and Carmela Galea** whose anniversaries occur at this time.
May they rest in peace.



WHAT IS A SYNOD?

A Synod is a moment when the church deliberately pauses to listen, pray and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide today. In a Synod, we ask not only, "What do we think?" but more importantly, "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"

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

A reading from the first book of Samuel

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.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22 R. v.1

**(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: Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

THE APOSTLES' CREED

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,***

*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.*

Communion Antiphon: John 9:11, 38

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw
and I believed in God.

PROJECT COMPASSION

This week, Caritas Australia, through **Project Compassion**, draws us into the story of Manaini, a 44-year-old mother and subsistence farmer in remote northern Fiji who has transformed her family's life through food processing and organic farming, thanks to a Caritas-supported project. **To donate to Project Compassion, boxes and envelopes are available in the churches during Lent.**

WORKING BEES

Save the Dates

Corpus Christi Church: 28th March, 10 -11.30am

St Augustine's Church: 4th April, 10 -11.30am

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLES

Copies of the week timetable are available in the churches for parishioners to take home.

HOSPITALITY

All parishioners are invited to stay awhile after the **5pm and 9.30am Masses this weekend** to enjoy a Cuppa and chat and get to know more fellow parishioners.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

5.30pm Tuesdays St. Augustine's

6.00pm Fridays Corpus Christi, in Vietnamese

TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL:

A framework and process for renewal.

Vibrant, Vital, Viable

CULTIVATING THE HABIT OF SYNODALITY.

The whole Catholic Church has been called to become a synodal Church. Pope Francis, and now Pope Leo, calls on us to cultivate synodality as the way for us to be authentically Church for the future.

Synodality is a way of being Church rather than a program or an event. It creates community and allows time for listening. It recognises that all the baptised share in the mission of Christ and that the wisdom needed for discernment is shared among the faithful. In a synodal Church, the Spirit speaks through all the baptised, and discernment happens through encounter, dialogue, and prayerful listening. Our parish mission flows from this communion of people.

As we meet in the coming weeks to listen to the Spirit and to one another about how we can become a more vibrant, vital, and viable parish, we will engage in a process of synodality.

During Lent we invite you to gather in groups to listen to each other as we share the stories of our Parish communities:

- Who we have been – sharing the rich history of our faith communities and our connection to them.
- Who we are – sharing about what's working to support us in faith and community life. What do we want to hold on to or continue? What could we let go of?

You are invited to attend any one of the gatherings below that suits you. The gatherings are not specific for that Church.

- **(After Mass) Sunday 22 March,**
Annunciation Church, 8.30-9.15am
- **(After Mass) Tuesday 24 March,**
St. Augustine's Church, 6.30 – 7.45pm
- **Wednesday 25th March,**
Corpus Christi Church, 6.30-7.45pm

LENTEN REFLECTION EVENINGS

Thursdays in Lent at the Presbytery at St. Augustine's
7pm start for about an hour.

SAVE THE DATE: JOSEPH'S CORNER ... Sunday 3rd May
HIGH TEA FUND RAISER

TAIZE PRAYER: St. Augustine's Church Yarraville
Wednesday 18th March 2026. Prayer will begin at
7.30pm and last 45 minutes to an hour.
Supper will be provided afterwards.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:www.melbatholic.org/yarraville**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlinpatmac766@gmail.com**PARISH CHURCHES****ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

PARISH NEWSLETTER:

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code.

LITURGY TIMES**TUESDAY MASS**

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:**SATURDAYS** after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

COLLECTIONS

THE FIRST COLLECTION supports the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.

THE SECOND COLLECTON (includes envelopes), supports the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.

To set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, use these account details.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:
BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:
BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:
BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

TAP AND GO CONTACTLESS**DONATION TERMINALS**

in the foyers of the churches.

Follow the prompts and choose your nominated amount to donate.

Codes for one off donations via credit card

Unique to the Parish of St. Augustine's



Unique to the Parish of Corpus Christi

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate or contact the Parish office for a set of envelopes.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK(14th & 15th March 2026)**4th Sunday of Lent A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Nic Fusca

9.30am Andrea Wilberger

Sam Polzella

COUNTING:...Phillip Marques**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00am Val Taylor

Rachael Nguyen

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Greg Buhagiar

9.30am.....Pina Guzzardi

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Joe Fusca

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK(21st & 22nd March 2026)**5th Sunday of Lent A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Rose Thomas

9.30am Tere Tutai

Sam Polzella

COUNTING:...Krystyna Biront**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00am Cass Pelino

AJ Pelino

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Nic Fusca

9.30am.....Phillip Marques

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Julianna Barr

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL**VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements