

Gospel Short John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.

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The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.

By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?



ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Catholic Parish

Avondale Heights

Today's Celebration is on pages:

Old Missal: 74 New Missal: 177



4th Sunday of Lent, Year A

15 March 2026

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

A reading from the first book of Samuel

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.

The word of the Lord. 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

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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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!**

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

🌐 www.melbocatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tru

Secretaries: Lee Tran: Wednesday - Friday

Charles Meneze: Tuesday

Office Hours: Closed Monday

10am - 3pm Tuesday - Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm

Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

Phone: 9337 6016

E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10.00am
Saturday 5:30pm

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey

Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano

Maria Aloe

Phone: 9331 9000

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The Augustinian Sisters

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Phone: 9337 4595

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Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick: John & Rossini Burns; Pan Giannenas; Anna; Mark; Franca, Nazzi & Teresa Demaio; Peter Falzon; Nancy Green; Emily & Grace; Monica Marland; Mellisa; Charles.

Recently Deceased:

Anne O'Prey; Edmund Boileau; Philip Cassar; Lawrence Vella; Ian Howe; Feliciara Lisio; Salvatrice Melia; Carmen Schembri; George Borg; Concetta Malgioglio; Mario Parnise; Noel Tovey; Veronica Mondeddu (India); Emmanuel Sammut; Nazzareno Care.

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Marek Momont (1st); Michele Soccio (1st); Vita Arbace; Nicola Loschiavo; Maria; Guise; Victor Degabriele; Dominic Cumbo; Bernarda & Francis Grima; Teresa, Emmanuel, Tonina, Phillip Sammut; Emmanuel & Nazarena Farrugia; Adam Hood; Rita & Carmelo De Bono; Joseph Consiglia.

Pioneer Parishioner Funeral Mass

Edmund Boileau

Wednesday 18th March 11am

Parish Support Programme:

Pays Wages, Electricity, Cleaning, Insurance, Rates, Maintenance.

Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$2,128

Loose: \$806

Presbytery: Supports Parish Priest,
Retired Priests & Cathedral. \$1,617

CONTRIBUTING TO THE COLLECTIONS

Have you left your cash at home?

Why not use our **QR Code** or the **Donation Tap Machine** (Max. \$99).

Please see one of our friendly volunteers with the machine in the back of the church if you wish to tap your card/phone to donate.

Thank you for your generosity.



Christian Meditation 2026

All welcome: Monday March 16 10 - 11am
Parent's Room in the Church.

Happy Birthday Fr Paul 15 March

LENTEN PROGRAMME

Easter Individual Reconciliations

Monday 23rd March 7pm

English; Italian; Maltese; Vietnamese

Tuesday 24th March Vietnamese 7pm

For Palm Sunday:

Saturday 28th March By 10am

Please bring Cypress, Palm and Olive branches to the church.

Help set up the church. After 10am

Easter Rosters are in the Church Foyer

Please indicate where you can help.

Reflection Day with Sr Connie

in Preparation for Easter

Tuesday 24 March 10am - 3pm

In the Pastoral Center

Please bring your own lunch.



Reflection Sessions with Sr Mayla



Wednesdays after Mass in
the Pastoral Centre Meeting
Room. All welcome.

Stations of the Cross After 9:15am Mass

Vietnamese - Thursday English - Friday

EASTER PROGRAMME

Palm Sunday - 28th/29th March

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

English 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday 2nd April 7pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper & Altar of Repose

Good Friday 3rd April

Morning Prayer and 10am

Way of the Cross for Children

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - English 3pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - Vietnamese 5pm

Holy Saturday 4th April

Individual Reconciliation 10.30am - Noon

Solemn Vigil Mass of Easter 8pm

Easter Sunday 5th April

Mass at Dawn - English 8:00am

Easter Sunday Mass - English 9:30am

- Vietnamese 11:00am

Feast of St Joseph

19th March

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace,
mercy, and courage,
and defend us from
every evil.

Amen



ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

9:15am Wednesday 18th March
followed by Adoration.

Instruction - First Eucharist & Confirmation

For children who do not attend a Catholic school.
Please contact the Parish office if you wish
to enrol your child to receive First Eucharist
or Confirmation Sacraments this year.

**Information Evening - 7pm Wednesday
22nd April.**



4th Sunday of Lent

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children
living in rural Fiji. With the support from
Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she
learnt food processing and gardening skills,
improving nutrition and creating new income
opportunities to support
her children's education.



Please donate today

