



# THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

15 MARCH 2026

## FIRST READING

1 Sam 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.

## 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

Eph 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.

## 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!

## GOSPEL

Jn 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.



**PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC**

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam  
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

**ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK**

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

**Mass**

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

**Reconciliation**

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

**HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH**

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

**Mass**

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

**Reconciliation**

Thursday after Mass

**ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY**

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

**Mass**

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

**Reconciliation**

30-mins before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

**Thanksgiving & Special Collections**

Church: \$1561.80 Presbytery: \$1586.80

Special Collection: -

**Next Week's Roster**

**Lectors:**

Saturday 6:30pm R Rodrigues

Sunday 9:00am A Powell 10:30am E Galero

**Counters:** No Counting

**Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar**

Tue 17 Mar: St Patrick

Thu 19 Mar: St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sun 22 Mar: 5th Sunday of Lent

Thanksgiving



**PLEASE NOTE CHANGES OF MASS LOCATION**

Thursday, 19 March

St Joseph's Feast will be celebrated at St Joseph's Church with 10:00am Mass, followed by a cuppa.

**There will be no 10am Mass at Holy Cross.**

Friday, 20 March

10:00am Mass will be at Holy Cross Church instead of St Joseph's Church.

**Stations of the Cross in Lent after Mass**

**Holy Cross** on Thursdays after 10:00am Mass.

**St Joseph's** on Fridays after 10:00am Mass.

**St Anthony's** on Fridays after 9:15am & 7:00pm Masses.



**Lenten Scripture Reflection**

Starting on Monday 23 February, and every Monday thereafter, during Lent from 7-8pm at St Anthony's Church.

**2nd Scrutiny of the Elect**

Let us keep in our thoughts and prayers, our RCIA Candidates and Catechumens as they proceed to their 2nd Scrutiny at Holy Cross Church this Sunday, 9am.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (cf. Isa 66:10-11)

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (cf. Jn 9:11, 38)

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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Those who are ill\*:** Josephine Fogarty

*\*Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

**Recently Deceased:** Jeffrey Bradford

**Death Anniversary:** Agostinho Sarmiento

**Appointment of Fr Eugene San SAC**

Archbishop Peter Comensoli has appointed Fr Eugene San SAC as the Assistant Priest for our Parishes!



According to the Appointment letter, this appointment is effective from 4th March 2026. We whole-heartedly welcome Fr Eugene and wish him the very best in his ministry. Fr Eugene is residing in St Joseph's Presbytery in Elsternwick.

Fr Eugene was born in Myanmar (Burma) in 1958 and migrated to Australia in 1971. He was introduced to the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, commonly known as the Pallottines, in 1982 when he began working as a Lay Missionary in Western Australia.

After working with the Pallottines for 2 and a half years, he joined the seminary in 1984 and was ordained a Pallottine priest in 1991 by Bishop Jeremiah Coffey DD at St. Kieran's Church in Moe. Since then he has served in parishes in the Archdiocese of Perth, the Archdiocese of Melbourne and in the dioceses of Broome and Bunbury.

Fr Eugene has been the Regional Leader of the Pallottines in Australia for 9 consecutive years. He's looking forward to growing in faith and love with the people of St. Joseph's & Holy Cross and St. Anthony's & St Aloysius. Please keep Fr. Eugene in your prayers.

**Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 28 March**

The Young Adults and Youth from our 3 churches will again be hosting the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of each month at St Joseph's Church.



**On Saturday, 28th March, the Vigil Mass will be preceded by Adoration & Confessions starting at 5.30pm at St Joseph's, Elsternwick. The Adoration is an initiative by the ACYF participants, and the Confessions is in preparation to the Holy Week. All welcome!**

**Parish Social Lunch**

The Camden Hotel - 414 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South on Wednesday, March 25th at 12.00pm. All welcome to come together over a meal for conversation, fun and friendship. RSVP: Denise 0410311326 by Friday March 20th.

**Southern Stars Social Club**

We welcome new Members (age 40 to 60+) and Young Stars (age 28 to 40). Email [sssc.online@gmail.com](mailto:sssc.online@gmail.com), call Peter 9885 2167 or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/ssstarssc>

## Walk With Mary 2026

Sunday, 15th March at St Patrick's Cathedral ~ 2pm Prayers, Holy Mass and city street procession.

Most Rev. Bishop Rene Ramirez will be the Main Celebrant.

A grace-filled afternoon of prayer awaits. Let us walk with Mary who always leads us to Her Son.



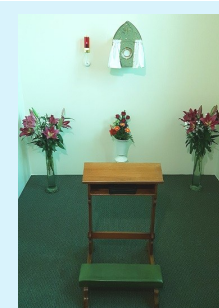
There are at last signs of great hope. At Fatima, Our Lady said, "In the End My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph!" The signs of rebirth are present throughout the world, from the Middle East to Africa, from Asia to America and throughout Europe, so many countries are reporting incredible rates of conversion.

Come and be blessed on this unique day!

## Lenten Eucharistic Adoration Challenge

Start on any day according to your convenience and carry on for 31 consecutive days of Eucharistic Adoration by visiting the Blessed Sacrament e.g. at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick.

For more info, email [angelica.barrios.au@gmail.com](mailto:angelica.barrios.au@gmail.com) or the Parish Office. Pamphlets available in the Church foyer.



## Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the Centenary Celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 with a security tag. Contact the Parish Office to apply. A refundable deposit of \$100 will be required upon application.

## Lenten Walk This Sunday

Departing from St Anthony's Church at 12.45pm by cars and van. Program includes:

- 1st Stop: St Thomas Church, 525 Frankston Dandenong Rd. Prayer before the Migrant Cross
- Visit St James Anglican Church Dandenong's oldest church
- Time in Heritage Hill Gardens
- Walk to St Mary's Catholic Church
- Journey along the Dandenong Creek Trail (flat, paved path)
- Visit Myuna Farm – community gardens, petting zoo (extra charge) for a cup of coffee
- Bring your water bottle and wear comfortable walking shoes. You are not too late to join in.

## Day of the Unborn Child - 28th March 2026

Holy Mass in Reparation for and Healing from Abortion on at 9:00am every 4th Saturday at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Confessions from 8:30am. Celebrant: Fr Nathan Rawlins. Rosary Procession after Mass.

Join us in prayer to the edge of the 150m Abortion Prayer Exclusion Zone, Wellington Parade, East Melbourne (Opposite Jolimont Station Ramp Exit). Parking available off Lansdowne Street. Please vacate carpark by 11:30am.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants: Contact 0407 090 367.

## Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal

Sunday 22nd March after morning Masses at St Anthony's Church. Please come along and support this worthy cause.

Trash and treasure, coffee and cake, games for the kids. People who would like to take a collection tin to their workplace please register on the day.

Donations of cakes, biscuits, scones and slices for sale most welcome. Please label your products with all the ingredients and date of preparation.

## Holy Week Timetable 2026

St. Anthony's, St Joseph's, Holy Cross

### RECONCILIATION

| ST JOSEPH'S            | HOLY CROSS           | ST ANTHONY'S                |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Saturday, 21st, 5.30pm | Sunday, 22nd, 6.30pm | Monday, 25th, 2nd Rite, 7pm |

### 28/29 March PALM SUNDAY

| ST JOSEPH'S                         | HOLY CROSS  | ST ANTHONY'S                            |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Saturday, 6.30pm<br>Sunday, 10.30am | Sunday, 9am | Saturday, 6pm<br>Sunday, 9am, 11am, 5pm |

### 2 April HOLY THURSDAY

| ST JOSEPH'S | HOLY CROSS                               | ST ANTHONY'S                                |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| No Mass     | No Morning Mass<br>Last Supper Mass, 7pm | No Morning Mass<br>Last Supper Mass, 7.30pm |

### 3 April GOOD FRIDAY

| ST JOSEPH'S                            | HOLY CROSS        | ST ANTHONY'S                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stations, 10am<br>Passion Service, 3pm | Divine Mercy, 7pm | Pageant, 10.40am<br>Stations, 11am<br>Passion Service, 3pm<br>Divine Mercy, 4.30pm |

### 4 April HOLY SATURDAY

| ST JOSEPH'S | HOLY CROSS                             | ST ANTHONY'S                                   |
|-------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| No Mass     | Divine Mercy<br>Easter Vigil Mass, 7pm | Divine Mercy, 3pm<br>Easter Vigil Mass, 7.30pm |

### 5 April EASTER SUNDAY

| ST JOSEPH'S          | HOLY CROSS                            | ST ANTHONY'S                                                   |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Easter Mass, 10.30am | Easter Mass, 9am<br>Divine Mercy, 7pm | Easter Mass, 9am, 11am<br>Divine Mercy, 3pm<br>No Evening Mass |

## St Anthony's Church open on Fridays during Lent

This initiative has a two-fold purpose:

To make the church available to more parishioners during Lent and to take a small step on the path of keeping the Church open for daily prayer. Do you recall the days when our church was open every day? There is a need and a hunger in the community. St Anthony's is taking this step to meet it, starting Friday 27th February.

If you are able to commit to a time of personal prayer and be present to keep an eye in the church on Friday afternoon, please contact the Parish Office.

## Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All children and young people who come to our parish have a right to feel and be safe.

All volunteers are reminded to ensure they:

1. Have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) card. When completing or updating your details online, please use the following details:

**Organisation:** St Joseph's & Holy Cross Parish

**Address:** 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185 or 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South, VIC 3162

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185

2. All parish volunteers over the age of 18 are required by the Archdiocese to undertake the Safeguarding online training every 3 years. Complete the training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>



## Project Compassion

Project Compassion Boxes are now available in the church foyers. Please take one as well as for anyone who is unable to come to church.

# Breaking Open the Word

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.

*Longer form, 9:1-41*

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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## 'WE ARE NOT BLIND!'

The rich theological symbolism evident from last Sunday's Gospel of John continues in today's drama between light and darkness. Jesus meets a man born blind and tells him to wash in the sanctified pool of Siloam south of the temple. The blind man returns able to see. Over several scenes in one of the most dramatic and engaging stories in all the Gospels, the man who now has vision is consistently interrogated by the religious authorities who, though they are supposed 'to see', move into spiritual blindness.

The dynamic evident in the story is that each time the man is interrogated, he goes back to his experience of being healed by Jesus. Each reflection moves him to a deeper realisation of what has happened and who Jesus is: at first he calls Jesus simply 'a man', then later, that Jesus is 'from God', until finally, the man worships him. This movement of faith into light is accompanied by a similar movement into darkness by the religious leaders. They fail to see that they have become blind to Jesus and his deeds of healing (which John calls 'signs'). 'We are not blind, surely?' they retort.

This drama is acted out in our day. Jesus' final words to his antagonists and John's audience are forever relevant. 'Blind?' questions Jesus, 'If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.' This clarity of understanding and insight is important in a world where truth is camouflaged as falsehood and lies proclaimed as truth. We need to journey with the man born blind, to reflect on our experiences, to be with Jesus and 'see'.

**Fr Michael Trainor**