

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: As we hasten towards Easter in this time of Lent, let us turn to God in prayer with complete hope and trust.

Reader: For our Church and our Community of Paddington, Edgecliff & Double Bay.

All: Like the blind man was not afraid before the Pharisees, may we also not be afraid to witness that Jesus is the Light of our World.

Reader: For the Australian Church, as we prepare for the 2020 Plenary Council.

All: May you bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Reader: For the world and all its people.

All: May our leaders strive always for unity and peace, reconciliation amongst neighbours and justice and equity for all.

Reader: For an end to the spread of the coronavirus and the safety of all.

All: May the Lord sustain and renew those working towards a cure and may it bring a renewed worldwide compassion for those suffering from its' affects.

Reader: For those who have died.

All: May they one day awake and rise in the light of Christ.

Presider: Let us pray together.

All: Eternal Father, you are our merciful shepherd. Look down on your flock and listen to our prayers as we turn to you in this time of need. We make these prayers through the power of the Spirit in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.



Parish newsletter of the communities of St Francis of Assisi Paddington, St Joseph Edgecliff and the 8:45am Mass at Double Bay
In the care of the Franciscans since 1879

St Francis of Assisi Church 463 Oxford St Paddington : St Joseph Church 12 Albert St Edgecliff

Parish Office: 66 Gordon St Paddington 2021 Tel: 02 9331 4043
Website: www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com Email: enquiries@stfrancis-stjoseph.com
Sunday 22 March 2020 : 4th Sunday of Lent Year A

2020 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES (In Hopeful Anticipation)

St Joseph, Edgecliff		St Francis of Assisi, Paddington	
Palm Sunday, 5th April:	7:30am, 11am & 5:30pm Mass 8:45am Mass at Double Bay	Saturday, 4th April:	5:30pm Mass (Palm Sunday Vigil)
Monday, 6th April:	7am Mass	Palm Sunday, 5th April:	8:30am & 10am Mass
Tuesday, 7th April:	5:30pm Mass	Monday, 6th April:	9am Mass
Wednesday, 8th April:	5:30pm Mass 6:00pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation	Tuesday, 7th April:	9am Communion Service 7pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation and 'Tenebrae'
Holy Thursday, 9th April:	6:00pm Sung Mass	Wednesday, 8th April:	9am Mass
Good Friday, 10th April:	11am Stations of the Cross 3pm Solemn Good Friday Liturgy	Holy Thursday, 9th April:	7pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper
Holy Saturday, 11th April:	6pm Easter Vigil - Service of Light	Good Friday, 10th April:	9:30am Stations of the Cross 3pm Solemn Good Friday Liturgy
Easter Sunday, 12th April:	7:30am & 11:00am Mass 8:45am Mass at Double Bay NO 5:30pm Mass on Easter Sunday	Holy Saturday, 11th April:	7pm Easter Vigil - Service of Light
		Easter Sunday, 12th April:	8:30am & 10am Mass

PARISH NOTICES

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Did you know our bulletin is available online? Stay up to date, download at : www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com/publications/bulletins/

PASTORAL LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP FISHER

Please pick up your copy of Archbishop Fisher's Pastoral Letter to the Pastors and People of the Archdiocese of Sydney from the church entrance or www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/

ADVICE FROM THE ACBC

As a precautionary response to the coronavirus the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has made the following recommendations. 1) Holy Water is to be temporarily removed from the stoups. 2) For the Sign of Peace individuals are encouraged to offer a smile, wave, nod or bow. 3) The preferred way to receive communion is reverently in the hand.

HOLY COMMUNION — HYGIENE

For the time being the celebrant will be the only one to distribute Holy Communion.

HOLY WEEK AT ST FRANCIS

If you would like to participate during Holy Week at St Francis, Paddington please contact Marie Freyne on 0412 418 915 or at mariefreyne@hotmail.com

CONFESSIONAL UPDATE

The new confessional at St Francis has now been completed. The confessional at St Joseph should be completed by Easter. Parishioners are encouraged to seek and use the sacrament as needed, to organise approach one of the Friars.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2020 (PARISH BASED) POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Following advice from the Sydney Archdiocese our Sacramental Program for 2020 is now on hold.

We are unable to provide revised dates at this time however we will stay in contact with all families who have returned First Reconciliation forms regarding when the program can resume and we will communicate new dates as they become available. If you have any questions about the Sacramental Program please call Ruth on 0410 470 678. If you are interested in receiving materials for home study please also let us know.

COMING TOGETHER DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME

It is important to maintain our sense of community and connection during this period. With many of our regular programs and groups on hiatus and with some in our community unable to attend mass we must look for new ways to maintain our connections and support one another.

We are looking for people to volunteer to help the elderly, vulnerable or those unable to leave their home by making regular phone calls to check in and have a chat. If you are interested in offering your support in this way please call Ruth on 9331 4043 or send an email to administration@stfrancis-stjoseph.com

UPDATES ON OUR PROGRAMS

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHOIR UPDATE

The St Francis Choir is in recess until further notice.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB UPDATE

Regrettably the April SIP has been cancelled. Watch this space for updates.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY UPDATE

Please note, Children's Liturgy is postponed until further notice. Fr Paul, Alanna & Ruth will tend to your sunflowers until we gather again. We look forward to celebrating together when Children's Liturgy returns



Fourth Sunday of Lent
22nd May 2020



Sakun's Story: Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or by phoning 1800 024 413.



WELCOME

New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team after mass and take home one of our Welcome Packs to find out more about your new community.
Welcome Packs are available at the church entrance.

OUR PARISH

Paul Ghanem ofm - Parish Priest
Piotr Rzucidlo ofm & Francisco Basnayake ofm - Assistant Priests
Ruth Rawlinson - Parish Manager
Tanith Bryce - Cantor, Edgecliff
Pamina Milenkovic - Organist, Edgecliff
Noel Debien & Bransby Byrne - Music Dir. & Organist Paddington
Nicole Smeulders - Cantor Paddington
Emma-Gai Gold - Safeguarding Support Officer
Nicole Hudson - Principal, St Francis of Assisi Primary School

WEEKLY SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Sunday: 7:30am, 11:00am & 5:30pm
8:45am at Double Bay

Monday: 7:00am

Tuesday: 5:30pm

Wednesday: 5:30pm

Thursday: 5:30pm

Friday: 7:00am

Baptisms: First Sunday of the month at 12:00 noon

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:30am & 10:00am

Monday: 9:00am

Tuesday: 9:00am Communion Service

Wednesday: 9:00am

Thursday: 9:00am

Friday: 9:00am

Baptisms: Third Sunday of the month at 11:30am

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, contact the police. You can also contact the *Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office*: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or 93905810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

We remember those in need of our prayers: our deceased, those in hospital, nursing homes, the homebound and defence force personnel.

Recently Deceased: Karl Hallenan, David Barrett, Clare Carter, Winifred Simshouser, Nancy Rickard, Junior; baby of Jono Allatt & Sarah MacMahon, Tim Chew, Cathy O'Connor, A. O'Sullivan, Peter McMurray, Lois Squadrito, Rae Collins, James Cummings, Patrick Whooley, Juliet McCormack, Caroline a'Beckett, Elizabeth Hammond, Michael Rock Dean, John Fordham, Margaret Quade, Norma Castaldi, Adrian Lynch, Danielle Linkson, Wilma Muriel Nesbitt.

Mass Intentions: Judy Debien, Mary Di Bello, Karen Tighe, John McCue, Joyce Dingwall, Vinz Napoli, Caterina Maiurana, Judy Petrosian, Margaret McCaffrey, Valerie McPhee, Susan Griffith, Katharina & Manfred Lemech Conley Family Intentions, John Kelly, Margaret Austin, Janice Hui, Aquino Lanojan, Kevin & Ann Nicey, Ian Stewart, Andrew Georgiou, Nancy Jordan, Yiu Lam Kwan, Gaetano Carone, Faye Anderson, Anne & George Duncan, Adeline Lee, Sr Mary Hereward, David Roderick, Tino Ordonez, Giuliano Family, Frank & Lena Kaine, Herbert Graham, Francesco Labbozzetta, John Newman, Giuliano Family, Ann Kaine, Dennis Kiernan, Domenico & Nita Casamento, Shannon Whelan, Kathy Nemeth, Kiernan Family, Avery & Roche Families, William Dikson, Jean Malouf, Maria Satoh, Hector Destro, Concepcion Family, Hector Barbara, Ray Ghanem, Tom Connolly, Nancy Jordan, Jim Evans, Odete Desa, Vince Munro, Marian Wojciechowski, Krystna Leszczynska, Kim & Raymond Malouf, Patrick & Mary O'Sullivan, Charles & Eddy Piper, Francisco Desa, Casimira Barros, Peter Meagher, Michael James, Holy Souls.



Archdiocese
Franciscan Friars

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Franciscan Friars Australia



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Parish
Archdiocese

www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com
www.sydneycatholic.org

Our faith community acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we worship, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

Our faith community demands that the Christian Churches including the Catholic Church provide full and meaningful reparation for those who have suffered clerical and institutional sexual abuse.

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

22 MARCH 2020

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
Longer form, 9:1-41

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

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.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The Mystery of Faith

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

 cf. Jn 9:11, 38

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

TWO RESPONSES TO THE LIGHT

In today's Gospel story, the blind man's physical disability is relieved in the opening scene. But his journey to the light (of day) in this physical sense is only a symbol of a much longer journey that he then begins: a journey out of the darkness of unbelief to discovery of the Light of the world in the person of Jesus.

While Jesus' role in the episode is crucial, he appears only at its beginning and end. In between, the healed man—and his parents—engage in a battle with the religious authorities. These constantly strive to get him to deny the truth of what Jesus has done for him. Far from discouraging him, however, the intensifying hostility only propels him on a journey of ever growing faith, that comes to a climax when he falls down and worships Jesus.

An attractive feature is the way the man's character emerges as the story develops. Questioned about how he came to be cured, he never goes beyond the evidence; he simply sticks to the facts and draws the inescapable conclusions. His journey into faith is a journey into ever deeper perception of reality.

The adversaries, on the other hand, resort to denial of the obvious facts, then to unfounded accusations and personal abuse. Finally, they appeal simply to their own authority and status. While the man comes to the Light, they—despite their physical ability to see—journey to the darkness of sin and unreality.

Going in opposite directions, the two journeys dramatically illustrate two responses to Jesus as Light of the world.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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'NOW I CAN SEE!' In today's Gospel it is the man born blind who gradually comes to see that Jesus is Lord. Meanwhile the Pharisees, the custodians of the traditional faith, fall steadily into blindness. Self-confident in their own knowledge, the Pharisees refuse to see the workings of God in Jesus. Let us humbly ask Christ to open our eyes that we may see his presence in our Eucharistic community and in our world.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

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

 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.

R. 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!

GOSPEL

 Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.