

Prayers of the Faithful

Presider: 'The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want'. Encouraged by the teaching and strengthened by God's word, we reflect on what we need in the church and in the community.

Reader: For the gift to understand God's ways. (pause) God's ways are not our ways and God's choices are not what we expect. May we be alert to the God of surprises and open to God's purposes for the church and for the world. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For the gift to live as children of the light. (pause) God commands us to live by the light of the gospel, overcoming darkness and sin in our lives. In our time of Lent, may we resolve to walk in the light of Christ by our faithfulness to his teaching.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For the gift to see what God wants. (pause) Jesus is the light of the world and his teaching is our guide in life. May we grow in understanding his way living as God wants according to God's Law.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For the gift of perseverance. (pause) The man born blind was rejected by his companions for professing faith in Jesus the Christ. May we persevere in faith professing the good news and living by its teaching.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have died, (pause) including Fr John Boyd Boland ofm, Francesco D'Ignazio and Rosanne Sollars, that they will rejoice forever in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Presider: God of the promises, you are the God of all nations. Teach us to be tolerant, open and faithful to your way. And grant what we need, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



Parish newsletter of the communities of St Francis of Assisi Paddington & St Joseph Edgecliff

19th March 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Lent -Year A
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 **Email:** office@stf-stj.com

The Gospel presents us with a man who has been blind from birth. Here is the suffering of the innocent, the enormous inequity of life. Nothing puts a greater strain on our faith than the existence of the utterly irrational suffering in our universe.

Does it help to be told, as Jesus does tell us, that the point of this man's affliction was "to let God's work show forth in him"? It does, but we should be honest and say that this transfers the solution to the realm of mystery. We are not faithless if we refuse to see how God's work is done or glory revealed when innocent children die in a fire at home.

It may be that we are right to attribute evil to another source, and to see God's works in those who bind up the wounds, and also to hear God's words that life is never extinguished but returns to him. It may be that the glory of God will be more revealed when human anguish, much of it caused by our own stupidity, greed or sin, is finally lessoned and life can be serene.

Fr Peter Clifford ofm

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

We are pleased to invite parents wishing to have their children participate in Reconciliation, Holy Communion or Confirmation to contact the office by email or phone. Details and form can be found on the parish website.

Dates as follows:

First Reconciliation : Preparation 3rd and 17th June,
Sacrament Tuesday 25th July.

First Holy Communion: Preparations 12th & 19th August
Rehearsal 2nd September
Sacrament Sunday 10th September

Confirmation: Preparation 21st & 28th October
Rehearsal 4th November
Sacrament Saturday 11th November

CELEBRATION OF THE FEASTS OF ST JOSEPH AND ST PATRICK

Saturday, 18th March at St Francis Paddington
After 5.30pm mass— at 6.15pm
Nibble & Drinks

Sunday, 19th March at St Joseph Edgecliff
After 10.30am mass—at 11.30am
Quiche & Chardonnay

After 5.30pm mass—at 6.15pm
Pizza & Wine

All parishioners welcome

THANKYOU

Your generosity provided a valuable contribution for the House of Welcome program.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS for CHILDREN

GOOD FRIDAY, 7th APRIL - at St Joseph Edgecliff

For children who would like to take part in this year's Children's Stations of the Cross please register your interest with the parish office.

The Children (aged 7+) will do small role play and read parts of the Stations.

ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Solemnity of St Joseph. Monday 20th March at 5.30pm Mass.

If you are able to join us mass will be offered for parishioners.

Message from the Life Marriage Family Team Archdiocese of Sydney

The Feast of the Annunciation is internationally recognized as the **Day of the Unborn Child.**

This year, on **Sunday 26th March**, we hope that you can join us as we walk through the streets of Sydney **following 10.30am mass in St Mary's Cathedral** to proclaim every human life is worth protecting, no matter how young.

The procession will be led by His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, heading towards Parliament House and conclude with Benediction at the Cathedral.

BACH at Easter

Join the Bach Akademie Australia for their first concert of 2023
Friday March 24th at 7.30pm
St Francis of Assisi Church Paddington.
Flyers will be available in the church.

WELCOME

New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team after mass to introduce yourself and find out more about our community. We also welcome you to contact our Parish Office.

OUR PARISH

Franciscan community: Fr Peter Clifford ofm, Br John Lourey ofm
Parish Administrator: Fr Anthoni Selvaraj ofm
Parish Secretary: Cate Stivala
Catechist Co-ordinator/Safeguarding Support: Alanna Sparks
Cantor, Edgecliff: Tanith Bryce
Music Dir. & Organist, Paddington: Noel Debien & Bransby Byrne
Cantor, Paddington: Nicole Smeulders
Principal, St Francis of Assisi School: Nicole Hudson

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Mass: **Sunday:** 9am, 10.30am & 5:30pm
Mass: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:** 5.30pm
(Reconciliation: prior to Thursday evening Mass - from 5pm)

Liturgy of the Word/

Communion: **Wednesday, Friday:** 5.30pm

Stations of the Cross: **Fridays:** 5.10pm

Baptisms: **1st & 3rd Sundays** at 11.45am

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

Mass: **Saturday Vigil:** 5.30pm
Mass: **Sunday:** 8.30am, 10am with choir
Mass: **Monday, Tuesday, Friday:** 9am
(Reconciliation: prior to Saturday Vigil Mass - from 5pm)

Liturgy of the Word/

Communion: **Wednesday, Thursday:** 9am

Stations of the Cross: **Fridays:** 9.30am

Baptisms: **2nd & 4th Sundays** at 11.45am

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

Recently Deceased: Father John Boyd Boland ofm, Virginia Hargreaves, Francesco D'Ignazio, Rosanne Sollars, Max Garling, Pamela Walsh, Patricia Watkins, Annette Mary Lunney, Cesar, Morano, David Degenhardt, Peter Bradfield, Odette Malouf, George Cardinal Pell AC, Stephen Wilcox, Elaine Clark, Boris Tosic, Dr Peter Cahill, Lyn Anderson, Gabrielle Cousins, Rex Porter, James Hayes, Chris Cunningham, Denise Blair, Reginald Saxelby,

Mass Intentions: Ruby Roderick and family, Elizabeth Considine Conley, Manfred Lemech, John Mc Cue, Geoffrey & Patricia Dawn Hughes, Glade & Jane Pike, Ozbert De Rozario, John Lagudi, Domenico Giuliano, Ian Stewart, James Carpenter, Ron Staples, Concepcion family, Sr Mary Hereward, David Roderick, Cindy Berwick, Janice Hui, Lisa Bailey, Giuliano family, Peter Meagher, Michael, Jane & James Carnell, Margaret & Ted Austin, Nea Gooley, Lillian Wassum Jones, Patrick & Mary O'Sullivan.

Overview of the Archdiocese's Safeguarding Policy

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Overview->

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, please contact the police. Alternatively, You can contact the *Safeguarding Ministerial Integrity Office: on 9390 5180 or* safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. 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.

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.



Archdiocese
Franciscan Friars

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Franciscan Friars Australia



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Franciscan friars

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

CATECHISTS NEEDED!

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Catechist please contact the Parish Office.

RCIA is a program for those seeking to find out more about the Catholic faith. It takes place within the parish, local faith community. It also offers opportunity to grow in knowledge of Jesus Christ accompanied by others on a similar journey. We welcome all inquiries, and there is no pressure or obligation. Each one has their own special story.

) If you have been baptised but have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation or baptised in another church.

) Have children over the age of five or teenagers (who will be supported through adapted form of the Rite).

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic please contact the parish office on 9331 4043.

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. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.

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.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

CHRIST’S TRANSFORMING LIGHT

Learning to read between the lines is not a skill that comes naturally to most of us. Today’s readings show just how difficult and challenging it can be to look into the heart of things to see them as God does. Samuel knew that he had been commissioned to anoint one of Jesse’s sons as the new king, but which one? As Samuel is reminded, we tend to look at appearances but God looks at the heart. Ultimately, it is the Lord who will teach Samuel that David is the chosen one.

The letter to the Ephesians invites us to join in the journey of discovering what the Lord wants of us. It requires honesty and trust, to bring ourselves as we are to the light of Christ. While fear might hold us back, there is the encouraging reminder that what is brought to the light of Christ is not condemned, but transformed and turned into light.

The episode of the man born blind is a marvellous example of how difficult and yet freeing, it is to come into the light of Christ. The man gradually moves from seeing Jesus as a man, then as a prophet, and finally coming to believe in him as Lord. He was originally treated as an outsider because of his disability. After being questioned three times, his growing insight and faith lead him to be cast out yet again, but now he is no longer alone; now the Lord stands beside him.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

19 MARCH 2023

‘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, 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.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, ‘Isn’t this the man