

## Ministry Roster.

This Week: 4th Sunday Lent, Yr A (19/3.) Next Week: 5th Sunday Lent, Yr A.(26/3).

Ministry	Vigil	8:30AM.	Vigil	8:30 AM.
<u>Acolyte</u>	R Kemmis.	P Doherty.	C Rannaste.	Gerald V.
<u>Commentator:</u>	C Rannaste.	Volunteer.	T Bergheim.	T Griffiths
<u>Reader:</u>	T Greely.	P Gannon.	J McInerney.	M David.
<u>Flowers:</u>	M Dodd.		J West.	
<u>Cleaning:</u>	L Blahut & M David.		L Beaman & P Currie	

If you are unable to carry out your ministry please organise a replacement or call Richard on the Parish phone number listed on the first page of this bulletin.

**PARISH SENIORS' GROUP:** On **Wednesday, 29th March**, the group will be enjoying a mini bus outing and a tour of the **Margaret Whitlam Galleries and the Heritage Female Orphan School**, which are within the grounds of the University of Western Sydney, Parramatta Campus, Rydalmere, This building was once the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital. It will be amazing to hear about the number of heritage buildings on the campus which are used by the University today. The bus will be leaving the Somers St bus loop at 9am and returning by 4pm. On arrival to the site we will enjoy a Devonshire morning tea prior to a powerpoint presentation. **Cost is \$40 pp** which covers the bus fare, morning tea and tour. Lunch will be at the **Boiler House Restaurant** on the campus grounds at ones own expense.

As there are a number of seats still available on the bus, an invitation is extended to parishioners who would be interested in joining the group on this outing. Please contact **Paula Currie** (0416 185 651) **no later than Tuesday, 21st March**, as numbers need to be advised one week prior to our booking.

**USED POSTAGE STAMPS:** Thank you so much to those who are placing their used stamps in the collection box in the church foyer. These stamps are forwarded to the **Sisters of St Joseph, North Sydney** at regular intervals.

**Glenbrook Christians Ecumenical Meal Sharing: From 5 March.**

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, invite you to their ecumenical neighbours sharing soup and bread for Lent gatherings with their Baptist and Uniting Church neighbours. Join them for a meal and chat on Sunday 5 March at St Finbar's, Sunday 19 March at Glenbrook Baptist and 2 April at St Andrew's Uniting Church. Donations raised will go to the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group.

**Supporting your Parish.**

Thank you for your contributions to both the first and second collections, credit card using the Tap and Go machine or by EFT to the Parish bank account. The First Collection is used by the Diocese to pay all Diocesan Clergy so that they are all supported equally.

The Second Collection is used to pay the costs of running our Parish. This collection now is 80% of the amount that was being collected before Covid 19 lockdown. This means at that level (80%) the Parish is operating at a deficit. If that situation continues, we will not be able to continue long as a Parish.

It is appreciated that some Parishioners are on fixed incomes (pensioners, young families, etc.) are giving all they can. However, we ask those that can afford to, increase their support of the Parish.

The Parish needs to increase its weekly collections by about \$400, which when split over the parishioners that can afford it is between \$5 to \$10 extra a week. A big **'THANK YOU'** to those parishioners who have increased their contributions and with a little more we can return to surplus.

**Fr Paul.***Our Lady of Nativity Parish Bulletin .*254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783. **PO BOX 44, Lawson, 2783.**Phone: **4759 1034 or 0418 214 548.**Email: [lawson@parracatholic.org](mailto:lawson@parracatholic.org)Parish Website: [www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au](http://www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au)Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0418 461 316.Assistant Priest: Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0415 077 969.

Parish Office Hours: Thursdays &amp; Fridays 10.00 am - 3.30 pm.

Weekend Masses: **Saturday 5:00 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM.**Weekday Masses: **Tuesday & Wednesday, 5:00 PM & Thursday 9:00 AM..****Baptisms:** First & Third Saturdays at 11:00 AM. **Weddings:** Call the office & six months notice. **Funerals:** Call the office.**Fourth Sunday of Lent.****We offer you a tea light candle to take home with you this weekend.***Let us humbly ask Christ to open our eyes that we may see his presence in our Eucharistic community and in our world.***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 all sincerity.****Through Christ our Lord.****AMEN.****Congratulations & Blessings Fr Eugene!!!!!!**

Father Eugene Stockton celebrated his 65<sup>th</sup> year of Ordination on 8 March. Fr Eugene was ordained at St Marys Cathedral by Cardinal Gilroy on 8 March, 1958.

**The Parish Team.****Bowl of Stones**

At the foot of the Sanctuary there is a tray of sand in which we would like you to place a stone for the coming weeks of Lent. **What is the symbolism of this stone?** It is a symbol of the burdens we carry. **Bring this burden forward to God and let it go.**

*Sometimes you don't feel the weight of something you've been carrying until you feel the weight of its release.*



We acknowledge and pay respect to the Darug and Gundungarra People and their elders - the traditional custodians of the land on

## The Fourth Sunday in Lent - Year A.

19th March, 2023.



### Recently Deceased: Anniversaries:

**Sick:** Rob Nickl, Maurice Rooney, Lan Franco Matteucci, Moira Sattler, Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Eamonn Spellman, Sienna Erdmanis, Max Dodd, Barbara Lumley, Nicola Galea, Kaase Van Der Donk and all Private Intentions. *Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick*

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS.

#### First Reading

*1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a*

Samuel is sent to anoint David as king.

#### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalms 23:1-6*

The Lord is our shepherd.

#### Second Reading

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

The Ephesians are told to live as children of light.

#### Gospel Reading

*John 9:1-41 (shorter form: John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38)*

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

#### Background on the Gospel Reading

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

## The Fourth Sunday in Lent - Year A.

19th March 2023.

### OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY

#### SCHOOL

7 Somers Street, Lawson.

Phone: 4753 2200. Email:

[oln@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:oln@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### SANTA MARIA

#### CONFERENCE CENTRE

Available for meetings,  
functions and  
conferences. Phone  
Sr Veronica on 4759 1116.

### More about Sunday Lunch and the Sacred Scriptures.

Bring your own lunch and a drink on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 12 noon to Our Lady of Nativity School Hall and there you will also receive some "food for your spirit" as we hear some uplifting teaching about Forgiveness.

Our keynote speaker is Dr Laurie Woods, Scripture Scholar who will break open the Scriptures that promise us the loving forgiveness of God. There will still be time for some sharing with our fellow diners. *See the flyer on our website*

RSVP your acceptance to Maureen Ryan 0403 931 782 [maureenpr8@gmail.com](mailto:maureenpr8@gmail.com)

## Journeying with Jesus

### Ecumenical Prayerful Preparation for Holy Week and Easter

*Led by Sr Jacinta Shailer SGS.*

*A time of prayer, song, sharing, silent prayer  
and blessing of palms.*

**Place: Catholic Church,  
Wentworth Street,  
Blackheath.**

**DATE: SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL**



**BYO A palm branch and your Morning Tea.**



El Greco  
Christ Healing the Blind Man, 1560