



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Fairfield

Archdiocese of Sydney Est. 1946

19th March, 2023 - Fourth Sunday Lent - Year A



MISSION STATEMENT

We are a believing community in the Catholic Tradition, whose heart is Jesus Christ, celebrated in the Eucharist. Our catholicity is lived through the diverse nature of our community which is open and welcoming to all. Daily we are open to the Holy Spirit who speaks to us through the Gospel, enabling us to experience personal and social transformation.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Administrator: Rev Fr Bob Bossini
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Andrew Fu
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Tibebeselassie Abza
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Ben Gandy
Parish Office: 2 Weston Street
Fairfield NSW 2165
Presbytery: 18 Vine St. Fairfield 2165
Email: admin@olrfairfield.org.au
Phone: (02) 9724 5997
Emergency Ph: 0488 693 482

Parish Office Hours:
Mondays - Fridays 9am - 12pm & 1pm - 5pm
Parish Website: www.olrfairfield.org.au

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY MASS: 8.30am

SUNDAY MASS

in English (Vigil) 6.00pm (Sat)
in Polish 7.30am
in English 9.00am, 10.30am & 6pm
in Vietnamese 4.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Friday: 9.30am
Monday & Tuesday: 7pm
Friday Mass: 7.00pm First Friday of the month

Business Manager: Florbela Caxala Mb: 0472 862 509
Events & Marketing Co-ordinator:
Kathryn Gerardino Mb. 0491 602 332
Sacramental Co-ord: Simone Smith 0432 437 552
Liturgical Music Co-ordinator: Fr. Ben Gandy
Parish Safeguarding Support Officer: (PSSO)
Florbela Caxala
safeguarding@olrfairfield.org.au

Novena Prayer: Our Lady of Perpetual Help - 6.30pm on Wednesdays.
Novena Mass: 1st Wednesday of the Month 6.30pm.

Holy Hour: Vietnamese Community 6pm on the last Friday of the Month.

Catechist Coordinator:
Heather Watt: Contact Parish Office

Catholic Women's League: Matilda Petersen on Mb. 0426 847 213 - Meeting 4th Thursday of month.

St Vincent de Paul - Meeting 1st Thursday of month: Marcel D'Abrera Mb. 0418 231 368

SACRAMENTS

Confession

Saturday 5.00pm - 5.30pm, Before/After Mass or by appointment.

Baptism

Contact the Parish Office to make an appointment. A Baptism preparation class is required prior to Baptism. Baptism Enrolment form needs to be submitted to the Parish Office.

Marriage

By appointment – six months notice required and undergo Marriage Preparation Course. Check with Parish Secretary for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

Please check the Parish Bulletin for future dates for the administration of this Sacrament during Mass. Outside Mass times, requests to be anointed can take place after any Mass or by appointment.

For all church or room bookings, please contact Florbela!

Email: manager@olrfairfield.org.au

SCHOOLS

OLR Primary School

20 Vine Street, Fairfield Tel: (02) 9727 9064
Principal: Ms. Jackie Vella
info@olrfairfield.catholic.edu.au

Patrician Brothers' College

Boys Year 7–12 Tel: (02) 9728 4488
Principal: Mr. Peter Wade
info@pbcfairfield.catholic.edu.au
Monastery: (02) 9724 1247

Mary Mackillop Catholic College

Girls Year 7–12 Tel: (02) 9725 4322
Principal: Ms. Gilda Pussich
info@mmcwakele.catholic.edu.au

SCECS Outside School Hours Care

Ph: (02) 9568 8218 Website: www.scecs.nsw.edu.au
Mary Mackillop Hall 20 Vine Street, Fairfield NSW 2165

Fairfield Montessori Academy Childcare Centre

20 Vine Street, Fairfield Tel: (02) 1300 000 162

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 at (02) 9390 5810 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.



Like our Parish Facebook page *Our Lady of the Rosary Fairfield Parish*

This Parish pays respect to the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of this land.

Fourth Sunday in Lent - Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 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.

First Reading

1 Sm 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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22 R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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.

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 9:1-41

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. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man

or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts
I must carry out the work of the one who sent me;
the night will soon be here when no one can work.
As long as I am in the world
I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, 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.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

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.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' '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.

Jesus said:

'It is for judgement
that I have come into this world,
so that those without sight may see
and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:

'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty,
but since you say, "We see",
your guilt remains.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jn 9:11,38

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

Dear Friends

This Sunday we encounter the second lengthy Gospel reading from John (9:1-41). It relates the story of Jesus' encounter with the man born blind. Like last week's Gospel [John 4:5-42] it is about the coming to faith of an individual after their chance meeting and encounter with Jesus. What makes this episode more enthralling is the fact that while the blind man moves towards spiritual sight - faith in Jesus as the Son of God, the Pharisees and Scribes move further towards spiritual darkness through their unbelief.

Blindness is a dreadful human condition. It can rob us of our independence as those who experience blindness require the assistance of various implements and people for them to move about. Those who work with the blind often say that blind people, especially those born blind, develop their other senses to a greater degree than those born with sight. Their sense of hearing is sharpened and developed to a point that they can pick up noises that may go undetected by others who have the use of sight. They can 'see' and 'perceive' on a far **deeper** and **more attuned** manner than people who have the full use of their sight.

Today's Gospel immerses us in the idea of this **deeper perception**: the 'sight' that comes from **faith**. The interaction between the characters in this Gospel passage highlight the themes of light, darkness and faith. In this Gospel passage we are met with two stories – two journeys, so to speak: that of the blind man and that of the religious leaders. The blind man moves from no faith (**blindness**) to full faith ('**Lord, I believe**' v.38), while the religious leaders move in the opposite direction: to a state of blindness in not recognising Jesus for who he is ('**This man cannot be from God... we do not know where he comes from**' v.16.29).

Focusing on Jesus as the light of the world allows for this deeper perception and faith. Emeritus **Pope Benedict** hinted at this in his Lenten message of 2011: '**The Gospel confronts each one of us with the question: "Do you believe in the Son of man?" "Lord, I believe" (John 9:35.38), the man born blind joyfully exclaims, giving voice to all believers. This miracle of this healing is a sign that Christ wants not only to give us sight, but also to open our interior vision,**

so that our faith may become ever deeper and we may recognise him as our only Saviour. He illuminates all that is dark in life and leads men and women to live as children of the light.'

Every Eucharist that we celebrate and pray allows us the opportunity to pray in faith the words of the blind man in today's Gospel: '**I was blind and now I can see**' (John 9:25). May our Lenten journey consist of our moving from the darkness and blind spots of our sinful ways into the Light that is Jesus Christ. In meditating on Jesus as the Light of the World we can take to heart the words of Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians which makes up our second reading today: **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 [Ephesians 5:8-12].**

Fr Robert Bossini
Administrator

We Remember and Pray for

Recently Deceased: Aloma Pospischil, Faridi El-Kazzi, Maria Nguyen Thi Hien, Maria Linda Catimbang, Joan McLean, Maria Doan Dang Thuy Vi & Terisa Hannaway.

Anniversary of Death: Marcia Stevenson, Maria Tran Thi Le Son & James Coulson.

In Loving Memory of: Joseph Binh Chanh Lam, Joseph Pham Kim Chuc, Carmel Windred, Charlie Camilleri, Kar-menu & Vincenza Ciantai, Albertin & Joseph Jabroo, Charlie Camilleri, Joseph & Carmen Camilleri, Carmel Windred, Vincenzo & Vincenza Cagliostro.

Sick: 9 Year old Archer, Stella Cachia & Ly Pham.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE
PALM CROSSES FOR PALM SUNDAY

WHERE:

Our Lady of the Rosary, Parish Hall

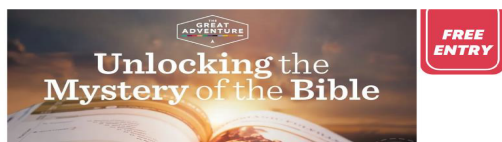
- 27th, 28th and 29th of March,
Mon Tues Wed, **10am - 12pm**
- 30th of March, Thurs
2:30pm-4:30pm



**MORNING TEA
AND SNACKS
PROVIDED!**

Please contact **Kathryn** if
you're interested

E: events@olrfairfield.org.au
P: 0491 602 332



JOIN US FOR THIS BIBLE STUDY!
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, FAIRFIELD
18 VINE ST, FAIRFIELD



Presented by
Charbel Raish



EVERY FRIDAY
17th February
until 31st March
Starts at 6:30pm
after the Stations
of the Cross

ASCENSION

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

www.parousiamedia.com

Lenten Timetable

Friday 17 th February, 2023		6.30pm 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 1
Friday 24 th February, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 2
Friday 3 rd March, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 3
Friday 10 th March, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 4
Friday 17 th March, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 5
Friday 24 th March, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 6
Friday 31 st March, 2023	Confessions available 6.00pm – 6.30pm	6.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible' Session 7

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sunday COFFEE CATCH UP



Hot + Iced Coffee



Hot Chocolate



Tea

JOIN US FOR SOME **FREE**
BARISTA MADE CUPPA

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH AFTER
SUNDAY MORNING MASS AT
9AM AND 10:30AM ON THE
26TH MARCH 2023

See you there!



Fourth Sunday of Lent 18 & 19 March



Thu lives in Vietnam. When Thu was 12 years old, he stepped on an unexploded land mine and lost his leg.

Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer. Thu also took on the role of caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke.

Determined to turn their lives around, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, run by Caritas Australia's local partner in Vietnam, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD).

For Thu, the greatest impact the program has had is enabling the change in Linh's physical and mental wellbeing. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Liturgy Corner

With Fr. Ben



Question: How do we select hymns for Mass?

Answer: A few things have to be taken into account here. Firstly, there are texts which are 'proper' to each Mass and are therefore the first choice. We call these the 'Entrance Antiphon' and 'Communion Antiphon'. They are almost exclusively taken from Scripture.

If these cannot be sung, we select a hymn based on these Antiphons and according to the season and the day. Obviously, a hymn to Our Lady isn't appropriate for an Apostles feast day. Additionally, we aren't going to have a gathering hymn during communion.

Generally speaking, the hymn must be fitting and appropriate to the occasion and therefore it must supplement in dignity the liturgy that is being celebrated.