

West Tamar Catholic Parish



MASS TIMES

Riverside:

6.00pm Saturday
9:00am Sunday
9:00am Wed & Fri
5.00pm Tues

Additional Masses: 5.00pm Wed: St Vincent's Hospital Chapel
7.30am Thurs: Carmelite Monastery, 7 Cambridge St Launceston

Beaconsfield:

11:00am
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the Month
12:00 noon 1st Friday of the month

Glengarry:

11:00am
2nd & 4th
Sundays of the Month

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A, 26th March 2017

Today's Readings

First Reading 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

Second Reading Eph 5:8-14

Gospel Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 *Jesus cures a man who was blind from birth on the sabbath.*

Samuel anoints David king.

Live in the light.

Next Week

Ez 37:12-14

Rom 8:8-11

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

God, the source of all love.

I have never been able to reconcile the long faces some of us put on in Lent with the prayers of the Church that describe this as 'a joyful season'. The following story takes seriously that laughter is an essential element of our Lenten observance.

Once upon a time in a nice little forest, there lived an orphaned bunny and an orphaned snake. By surprising coincidence, both were blind from birth.

One day, the bunny was hopping through the forest while the snake was slithering along the same path. The bunny tripped over the snake and fell down. 'Oh, my,' said the bunny, 'I'm terribly sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. I've been blind since birth, so, I can't see where I'm going. In fact, I'm also an orphan, so I don't even know what I am.' 'It's quite okay,' replied the snake, 'my story is much the same as yours. I've been blind since birth and never knew my mother. Tell you what, I could slither over you, and figure out what you are.'

'Oh, that would be wonderful,' replied the bunny. So the snake slithered all over the bunny, and said, 'Well, you're covered with soft fur; you have really long ears; your nose twitches; and you have a soft cottony tail. I'd say that you must be a bunny.'

'Oh, thank you! Thank you,' cried the bunny in obvious excitement. The bunny then suggested to the snake, 'Maybe I could feel you with my paw, and help you in the same way you've helped me.' So the bunny felt the snake all over, and remarked, 'Well, you're scaly and smooth, you have a forked tongue, you're impossible to pin down and you have no backbone at all. I'd say you must be either a contractor, a consultant or possibly someone in senior management.'

On reflection the Gospel of the man born blind is a joyful one too. Imagine this man's elation at having his sight restored.

As the story develops the all-seeing Pharisees move to spiritual blindness by putting on the blinkers of the law. They cannot recognise Jesus or his works of mercy because of their tunnel vision. Jesus doesn't fit their worldview. Meanwhile the blind beggar, who has sight restored, goes on to gain insight about who Jesus is and the way that God works in the world; he begins to see how shallow and pathetic the Pharisees really are.

This Gospel also contains a critical theological lesson: disability and illness do not come from personal sinfulness. It's surprising that we need to keep saying this, but too readily we hear otherwise intelligent and good Christians, for example, telling us that some illnesses have been 'sent' by God as punishment for sins or they wonder what their families have 'done' to deserve disabled children. It's true that God permits us to live in an imperfect world where we are prone to illness and disability. But that same world gives us the freedom to be creative in the face of adversity, to be compassionate with those who are sick or disabled and free to believe that there is a purpose for each human life. God, the source of all love, does not actively send bad things to us, instead, he is our constant companion in dealing with them; giving us the courage and strength to cope with, and sometimes overcome, them.

The task of this joyful season is to bring our good humour and compassion to bear on the blind spots in our own lives and be on our guard for the times when we are too confident about who God is, how he works or what he can or cannot do. May it never be said of us that we were so consumed by our own religious vision that we missed God's woods for the trees.



A reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

The celebration of the Word

FIRST READING

1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

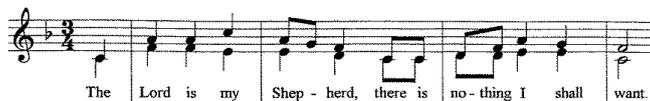
The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no 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.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22 R. v.1



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

All: Repeat

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
He leads me near restful waters,
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

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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Repeat



Cantor: I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

All: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

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

From the Holy Gospel according to John

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 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

Praise to You,
Lord Jesus Christ

Processional:

1. Love will be our Lenten calling,
love to shake and shatter sin,
waking every closed, cold spirit,
stirring new life deep within,
till the quickened heart remembers
what our Easter birth can mean.

2. Peace will be our Lenten living
as we turn for home again,
longing for the words of pardon,
stripping off old grief and pain,
till we stand, restored and joyful,
with the Church on Easter day.

3. Truth will be our Lenten learning:
hear the Crucified One call!
shadowed by the Saviour's passion,
images and idols fall,
and, in Easter's holy splendour,
God alone is all in all.

Recessional:

1. This season calls us to return
that by repentance we may learn
to seek but Christ and Christ alone,
who by his cross makes us his own.

2. O may the joy of holy Lent
bring us the patience to repent,
to lose our lives for Christ this day
and run by faith the gospel way.

3. Come make our yoke,
O Christ, so sweet,
our burden light, our joy complete,
that we may praise the Trinity
this day and all eternity.

March - Feast Days this Week:

27 St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

28 Blsd Daniel Brotier

April

1 St Hugh of Grenoble

Feast day of the Week - St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows



Born in Italy into a large family in 1838 and baptized Francis, Saint Gabriel lost his mother when he was only four years old. He was educated by the Jesuits and, having been cured twice of serious illnesses, came to believe that God was calling him to the religious life. Young Francis wished to join the Jesuits but was turned down, probably because of his age, not yet 17. Following the death of a sister to cholera, his resolve to enter religious life became even stronger and he was accepted by the Passionists. Upon entering the novitiate he was given the name Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Ever popular and cheerful, Gabriel quickly was successful in his effort to be faithful in little things. His spirit of prayer, love for the poor, consideration of the feelings of others, exact observance of the Passionist Rule as well as his bodily penances—always subject to the will of his wise superiors—made a deep impression on everyone.

His superiors had great expectations of Gabriel as he prepared for the priesthood, but after only four years of religious life symptoms of tuberculosis appeared. Ever obedient, he patiently bore the painful effects of the disease and the restrictions it required, seeking no special notice. He died peacefully on February 27, 1862, at age 24, having been an example to both young and old.



Helen Skrzeczynski and family would like to thank Fr. Martin and fellow parishioners for their prayers and kind thoughts and words for Bernice Powell, especially during the past three weeks.

It has been of great comfort to us. Thank you everyone.

Reminders

This Tuesday 28th March: Gregorian Chant 7.30pm
This Saturday 1st April: Cenacle: Devotion to Mother Mary 11.00am
Next Sunday 2nd April (for April only): Latin Mass 6.00pm

Liturgy Group Meeting

The Parish Liturgy Group will be meeting for Holy Week and Easter preparation on **Saturday 25th March** (after Mass) at 7.00pm in the Annexe. Readers, Servers, Musicians and anyone interested in our Parish preparations for this important season are invited and encouraged to attend.

Attention ALL Money Counters

There is a meeting on **Wednesday 29th March at 7.00pm** in the Church Hall for all money counters. The money counting system is going to change. Peter McCarthy for the Parish Finance Committee will be in attendance to explain the changes and answer any questions you may have. Please make it a priority to attend them meeting.

Parish Raffle

Congratulations to Anita Cunningham who won the last raffle. A new raffle will begin this weekend. Thank you to all who have supported this fundraising endeavour.

Sunday Morning Cuppa's

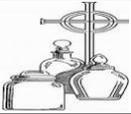
We are urgently requesting volunteers to assist with the running of Morning Cuppa's after the 9.00am Sunday Mass. At the moment it has been left to only a very few volunteers. If you would like to go on the roster please contact the Parish Office on 6327 3971 or email Jenelle on wtparish.bigpond.com

Pause 4 Parkinson's Event

This powerful Pause will give us a moment to raise awareness for a disease that greatly needs more attention. Sausage sizzle **Saturday 1st April 11am – 2pm**, Heritage Forest. RSVP Olivia 0438 495 416

Second Rite of Reconciliation

This will be held on **Wednesday 5th April at 7.00pm** St Francis, Riverside



Chrism Mass

Will be held at St Mary's in Hobart, **Tuesday 11th April** at 7.00pm.
Father Martin will be attending this Mass and all Parishioners are welcome to join him.
Mini bus leaves at 3.30pm sharp. Register your name on the sheet in the Narthex to save your seat.

Easter Mass Times

Holy Thursday

7.00pm Mass St Francis, Riverside

Good Friday

10.00am Stations of the Cross, St Anthony's Catholic Primary
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion, St Francis, Riverside



Easter Vigil

6.00pm Mass St Francis, Riverside

Easter Sunday

9.00am St Francis, Riverside
11.00am St Francis Xavier, Beaconsfield

Upcoming West Tamar Parish Mission

Seven Capital Virtues: Overcoming the Seven Capital Sins **Sunday 7th May – Thursday 11th May, 7.00 – 8.00pm**

A Parish mission, is a special event for Catholics in which EVERYONE is invited to take part in several days of activity and prayer, all focusing on their coming to a better understanding of the Faith. This mission will be conducted by Fr Ben Cameron CPM. Ben is coming from Kentucky in the USA and is a Father of Divine Mercy. This series of presentations will show how our Christian lives can be transformed by the Virtues.



We offer prayers for family and friends who have recently died:

Jim McMahon msc, Jeanette McGann, David Ryman and Bernice Powell.

We offer prayers for family and friends whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Lloyd Barrett, Lawrence MacLaren, Leonard Majewski, Helena Sydes, Santina Raimondo, Letitia McShane, Norma Heathfield, Biagina Silvestri, Dorothy Finn, Harold Hutton, Lies Moolenschot, Thomas Lawrence Clippingdale, Olga Hibbard, Clare Templar, Ellen O'Neill and Nancy Breathing.

We offer prayers for family and friends who are unwell:

Dorethea Morris, Willie Veldhuis, Rick Murfet, Anthea Maynard, Rick Waters, Andre A, Anthony A, Brian Hoare, Ted Gillies, Thea van Borkulo, Shannon Visser, Anthony Midson, Nettie Burke, Maureen Bamping, A L, Sophie and Scott Bailey, Daniel and Marina Aye, Susan Finnigan, Geoff Jones, Mary Townsend, Lucius U, Kylie Breen, Pat Duffy, Doug Chase, Sandra Shields, Sally Bonner, Lorna Capps, Andrea Franchina, Peter Franchina, Melissa Cherry, Maureen Symons, Ron Willis, Guy M, Gerard Mackrell, Irene Bingham, Lyn Porter, Ria Van Galen, Murray Jones, Andrew, James, Matthew J, Roger Orr, Fr Richard Ross, Trevor Peters, Errol Vincent, Ann Gordon, Claire, N. MacLaine, Max Antel, Ben Beumer, Max Jamieson and all patients in St Vincent's, St Luke's & General Hospitals

We offer prayers for our whole Parish community

Please let the Parish Office know if you have recovered.

Next Week's Roster

6.00pm Sat 1st April

Reader: B Fitzpatrick
Commentator: R Cawley
Communion: T Schouten S Clive
Greeters: E Davis E Webb
Collectors: T Foley M Dilger
Counters:
Morning Cuppa:

9.00am Sun 2nd April

M Sexton
B Sexton
J Izbicki S Rossler
S Rossler V McMullen
J Shadbolt L Males
R Midson J Shadbolt
J Peters D Lynch

Holy Hour: every 1st Friday of the month 7.00pm. (Reconciliation is available)

Anointing of the sick: every 1st Friday of the month during 9.00am Mass at St Francis Church, Riverside.

Cenacle: every 1st Saturday of the month, St Francis Church, Riverside 11.00am.

Rosary: every Monday at 7.30pm at Church of the Apostles.

Gregorian Chant: every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at St Francis Church, Riverside. Compline and Benediction every 4th Tuesday.

Praise and Worship Prayer Group: Every 2nd Thurs of the month at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall at St Francis Church, Riverside.

Latin Mass: 2nd Sunday of the month 6.00pm, St Francis Church, Riverside.

Mass at Calvary Health Care: St Vincent's: 5 pm Wed, 5 Frederick St.

Human Life Protection Society: Prayers for mothers, babies, the sick, the elderly and the dying. Thursdays 1pm, Chapel at St Vincent's Hospital.

One Hour with Jesus: every First Sunday at the Carmelite Monastery, 7 Cambridge Street, Launceston at 2.00pm

St Francis of Assisi Church

108 Pomona Road, Riverside

St Francis Xavier Church

190 Weld Street, Beaconsfield

St Canice Church

Glengarry Road, Glengarry

Parish Priest

Fr Martin Aye Ngwe

The Presbytery

1 Butler Avenue, Riverside,

7250

Tel 6327 3971

Parish Secretary

Jenelle Gillies

Tues & Thurs 9am – 1.30pm

Friday 9am – 11.30am

Tel 6327 3971

wtparish@bigpond.com

St Anthony's School

Anita Cunningham: Principal

382a West Tamar Rd,

Riverside, 7250

Tel 6327 3618

anita.cunningham@catholic.tas.edu.au

Reconciliation

Riverside:

Saturday 5:15 pm—5:45 pm

Archdiocesan website:

www.hobart.catholic.org.au

Beaconsfield

Peta Dobson

Tel 6394 7352

topend190@gmail.com

Secular Franciscan Order

Margaret Cherry

Tel 6327 2885