

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

# CANBERRA INNER NORTH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

PASTORED BY THE CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (SSS)

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT | LAETARE SUNDAY**

YEAR A | 14-15 MARCH 2026



## JESUS FREES US FROM SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS AND SIN

BY DON SCHWAGER

[www.dailyscripture.net](http://www.dailyscripture.net)

Do you recognise the light of God's truth and power in your life? God wants to remove every obstacle that might hinder us from recognising the light of his truth and wisdom for our lives. Saul, the first king of Israel, failed to recognise God's light and power to save him from his enemies. God replaced Saul with David, the youngest of Jesse's eight sons (1 Sam 16). God saw something in David which Jesse and his other sons did not recognise - a man after God's own heart who delighted in doing what was pleasing to the Lord (1 Sam 13:14). David was a man of courage and vision who defeated his enemies and united his people. His strength and success came not from himself but from God who anointed him with the power and wisdom of his own Spirit.

What can keep us from the light of God's truth, wisdom, and strength for our lives? Sin blinds us and causes us to stumble and fall - unable to rise on our own or to walk in the freedom of God's love and truth. Sin clouds the mind in moral confusion, and it grows in darkness and resists the light of God's truth. Only God's light can uncover the darkness of sin and free us to walk in the path of holiness and peace with God.

### Healing of man born blind

When Jesus approached the blind man he first awakened hope in him - the hope which God offers those who seek his help. Jesus then did something quite remarkable for the blind man, both to identify with this man's misery and to draw expectant faith in him as well. Jesus touched the man's eyes with his own spittle mixed with dirt and bid him to wash in the Pool of Siloam which was close to the Temple. This pool of fresh flowing water was one of the landmarks of the city of Jerusalem. Its source came from the Gihon spring located in the valley outside the walls of Jerusalem. This pool was likely used as a ceremonial bath of purification for people who were going up to the Temple to worship. On the yearly feast of Tabernacles, one of the priests brought a golden pitcher of water from this pool and poured it out over the altar in the temple while reciting from the verse, "You will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). What is the significance of the healing of the blind man at the Pool of Siloam? It is certainly more than just a miraculous event. It is a "sign" that points to the source of the miraculous life-giving water which Jesus offers through the gift and work of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38). Do you want the Holy Spirit to pour out on you his renewing power of faith, vision, and healing love?

### Freedom from spiritual blindness

John Chrysostom, commenting on this passage, remarked: "The Jews (the Pharisees) cast him out of the Temple; the Lord of the Temple found him." If our witness of Jesus and his redeeming work in our lives causes friends or foes to reject us, it nonetheless draws us nearer to the Lord Jesus himself. Paul the Apostles warns us to avoid the darkness of sin that we might walk more clearly in the light of Christ (Eph 5:8-12). Do you allow any blind-spots to blur your vision of what God is offering you and asking of you?

The Lord Jesus is ever ready to heal us and to free us from the darkness of sin and deception. There is no sickness, whether physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual that the Lord Jesus does not identify with. Isaiah prophesied that the "Suffering Servant" would be bruised for our iniquities and by his stripes we would be healed (Is 53:5). The Lord offers us freedom from spiritual blindness due to sin and he restores us to wholeness of body, mind, soul, and heart. Augustine of Hippo, in his commentary on this Gospel passage, remarks: "If we reflect on the meaning of this miracle, we will see that the blind man is the human race ... You already know, of course, who the "One Sent" is. Unless he had been sent, none of us would have been freed from sin."

## CHURCHES

### ST PATRICK, BRADDON

SUN	8:00 am	Mass
TUE-FRI	12:10 pm	Rosary
	12:30 pm	Mass
FRI	11:30 am -	Adoration &
	12:30 pm	Confession

### ST BRIGID, DICKSON

SUN	9:30 am	Mass
	5:00 pm	Vietnamese Mass (1st and 3rd Sundays)
TUE-SAT	8:40 am	Rosary
	9:00 am	Mass
WED	8:00 am -	Adoration
	11:00 am	
	5:00 pm -	Adoration
	8:00 pm	
SAT	9:30 am -	Adoration &
	10:00 am	Confession
	5:30 pm -	Confession
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass

Healing Service takes place after the Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

### ST JOSEPH, O'CONNOR

SUN	8:30 am	Mass
TUE-FRI	8:15 am -	Adoration
	9:10 am	(Confession during Adoration every Friday.)
	9:15 am	Mass
SAT	8:15 am	Novena to Our Lady of the Perpetual Help
	8:30 am	Mass
	5:15 pm -	Confession
	5:45 pm	
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass

Anointing of the Sick is within the Mass at 8:30 am every 1st Saturday of the month.

Recitation of the Rosary takes place after the 9:15 a.m. Mass, Tuesday to Friday.

### ST THOMAS MORE, CAMPBELL

SUN	10:00 am	Mass
FRI	11:00 am -	Adoration
	11:45 am	
	11:45 am	Mass

Confession is every Friday, 11:00 am to 11:40 am.

Anointing of the Sick takes place every 1st Sunday of the month at 11:15 am.

### HOLY ROSARY | BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

SUN	9:30 am	Rosary
	10:00 am	Mass
	5:00 pm	Mass
TUE-FRI	5:30 pm	Mass
SAT	4:00 pm -	Confession
	4:30 pm	
	5:00 pm	Vigil Mass
FRI	6:00 pm -	Adoration
	7:00 pm	



## SUNDAY READINGS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*cf. Isaiah 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 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13*

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 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

*Psalm 22(23)*

**R:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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**)

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**)

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**)

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

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

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

*cf. John 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

*John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38 (Shorter version)*

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.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*cf. John 9:11, 38*

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



## WHAT'S ON

### FROM THE OFFICE

- **Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2026.** Project Compassion continues this Lent. Donation boxes and envelopes are placed in the Church foyers. For more information, please contact the office.
- **Behold & Resound (Liturgy & Music) Workshops.** They will all be held on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm with some light lunch/refreshments provided. Please note of the following schedules: 14 March - St John Vianney Church, Waramanga | 21 March - St John the Apostle Church, Kippax. Registration is available now, and you can sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/BeholdandResound>
- **Save the Date: Cursillo Weekend.** Friday, 17 to Sunday, 19 April, St Clement's Retreat & Conference Centre, Galong. Please register by Fri, 3 April. Contact [michaelderaadt@gmail.com](mailto:michaelderaadt@gmail.com). For more information and to register: <https://tinyurl.com/cursillo2026>
- **The Feast.** Join us for casual gatherings centred on God's Word and rooted in real life. All sessions will be held on Saturdays from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (14 and 28 March | 11 April) at the Holy Rosary Watson Parish Centre. For any enquiries, please email [feastcanberra@gmail.com](mailto:feastcanberra@gmail.com) or contact 0406 872 588. <https://tinyurl.com/TheFeastMarchApril2026>
- **Archdiocesan Women's Taskforce.** Are you interested in meeting and sharing with other Catholic women on matters relevant to women in the Archdiocese? The Taskforce meets monthly on a Saturday morning and is always looking for new members, friends and ideas. If you would like to join or know more about the Taskforce, please contact Helena Zobec on [zobechelena@gmail.com](mailto:zobechelena@gmail.com) or on 0405 440 463.
- **Position Vacant – Parish Officer for Narooma-Cobargo Parishes.** Apply by CoB Friday, 20 March. For more information about the position: <https://tinyurl.com/PONaroomaCobargoMarch2026>
- **Merici College Open Days.** Visit <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/> for all dates and information for our Open Day and enrolment events. | <https://tinyurl.com/MericiCollegeOpenDay2026>

### CENTRAL CANBERRA, BRADDON & DICKSON

- **St Patricks Day - Tuesday, 17 March - St Patrick's.** Mass at 12:30 pm, followed by a bring-a-plate afternoon tea and refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Tea and coffee will be provided, and you're invited to bring a plate if you can.
- **Holy Week/Paschal Triduum Timetable 2026.** Access here: <https://tinyurl.com/CentralCBRHW2026>
- **Stations of the Cross followed by the Eucharist - St Brigid's.** 7:00 pm on all Fridays of Lent.
- **Unfolding the Mystery of the Bible.** Everyone is warmly invited every Thursday evening at 6:45 pm to attend the special presentation of a DVD series that explores the richness of the Bible. Please contact Najib Raya on 0439 581 204 for further details.
- **Craft Group.** All are invited every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month in St Brigid's Hall from 1:00 pm onwards. For queries, please contact Trish Moore at 0412 324 644.
- **We're Improving St Patrick's.** Our facilities are inadequate, and we need to fund new toilets, and a much needed new organ will arrive in March to enhance our Liturgy. To contribute, please place donation on the second collection or use the dedicated TAP machine opposite the confessional. Every bit helps - Thank you!

### ST JOSEPH, O'CONNOR

- **St Joseph's Feast Day Mass.** Everyone is warmly invited to celebrate St Joseph's Feast Day Mass at 6:00 pm on Thursday, 19 March, followed by refreshments. Please bring a plate to share if you are able. Mass will be preceded by Adoration at 5:00 pm.
- **Holy Week/Paschal Triduum Timetable 2026.** Access here: <https://tinyurl.com/OConnorHW2026> Please note that the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, 3 April, will now commence at 5:00 pm.
- **Stations of the Cross.** After the 9:15 am Mass on all Fridays of Lent.
- **Children's Liturgy.** Every Sunday during the 8:30 am Mass. All children are welcome. Children under five years old should be accompanied by a parent or grandparent.
- **Sacramental Program Enrolment 2026.** Reconciliation is for Yr 3 and up with parent and child (P&C) sessions commenced on Wednesday, 25 February. First Communion is for Yr 4 and up with P&C session commencing on Wednesday, 6 May. Confirmation is for Yr 6 and up with P&C sessions commencing on Wednesday, 12 August. Please enrol your child/children by emailing [kirstie.buckley@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kirstie.buckley@cg.catholic.edu.au) for more details.
- **Church Clean-Up for Easter.** Join other volunteers every Saturday from 9:00 am to 9:30 am (after the 8:30 am Mass) to help prepare the church for Easter. Light tasks include dusting, wiping pews, and sweeping. All ages welcome. Those interested in Easter flower arranging are also invited to come and have a chat with us.
- **Rehearsals for Holy Week Music.** Join us as we prepare the chants, hymns, and motets for the sacred liturgies of Holy Week. New voices are always welcome. Rehearsals are held every Tuesday at 7:30 pm at St Joseph's. For more information and contacts, please scan the QR code



### ST THOMAS MORE, CAMPBELL

- **21st Annual St Thomas More Forum & Dinner – Change of Date to Wednesday, 3 June.** RSVP by 11:00 am on Friday, 22 May. For more information and to register: <https://bit.ly/stmf-030626> | Access the flyer here: <https://tinyurl.com/StThomasMoreForum2026>
- **First Reconciliation Preparation.** Next Family Sessions: Sundays, 15 and 22 March, after the 10:00 am Mass. Important dates can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/StThomasFirstReconciliation>
- **It's Working Bee Time!** The school and parish working bee will take place on Saturday, 14 March from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Come and get your hands dirty, make friends and enjoy the beautiful weather!
- **Altar Cloth and Linens - Volunteers.** Inviting anyone to join in caring for our altar cloth and sacred linens. If you're able to help, please speak to Monica Phelan or email her at [monphel@icloud.com](mailto:monphel@icloud.com). Your support helps keep our parish thriving!
- **Seeking Donations for Mass PowerPoints.** The parish is requesting a donation of a laptop. This laptop will be used exclusively for running the PowerPoint slides at Mass. If you have anything suitable, please contact Zane Mason at [masozan75@gmail.com](mailto:masozan75@gmail.com). Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated!

### BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

- **Holy Week/Paschal Triduum Timetable 2026.** Access here: <https://tinyurl.com/WatsonHW2026>
- **Song, Silence, Scripture & Prayer in the Style of Taizé.** Everyone is invited to this service every 1st Sunday of the month (except on Easter Sunday - next service will be on 1 March) at Holy Cross Anglican/St Margaret's Uniting, Hackett. <https://tinyurl.com/Watson-Taize-2026>
- **Scripture Reflection.** A reflection on the scripture readings for the following Sunday is held each Wednesday in the parish centre from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. All welcome.
- **The Dominican Library.** The library in the parish centre is open each Saturday (except the first Saturday of the month) from 10:45 am to noon. All welcome.
- **ACU.** ACU Masses during semester time are as follows: 12:00 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Signadou Chapel, Ground Floor, Building 302, 223 Antill Street, Watson.

"You will be consoled according to the greatness of your sorrow and affliction; the greater the suffering, the greater will be the reward."

~Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Canberra Inner North Catholic Community (CINCC) acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

### YOUR MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT A LOT...

#### First Collection

(Supporting all the priests of the Archdiocese)

A/C Name: **Central Presbytery Fund**, BSB: 062-786 and Bank Account: 00029248

Reference: Your parish location, name and intention

(e.g., Campbell Smith 1st collect)

#### Second Collection

(Maintenance/upkeep of the Churches, staff salaries, liturgical needs, insurance, etc.)

~ **Central Canberra, Dickson & Braddon:** A/C Name **Canberra Central Parish**  
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00013150, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **St Joseph, O'Connor:** A/C Name: **St Joseph's Parish**  
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00012798, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **St Thomas More, Campbell:** A/C Name: **St Thomas More Parish**  
BSB: 062-786 A/C: 00014869, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **Blackfriars, Watson:** A/C Name: **Blackfriars Parish Watson**  
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00013341, Ref: Name & Giving Number

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

The Canberra Inner North Catholic Community (CINCC) is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the center of all of our thinking and action.

#### Parish Safeguarding Officers:

**Central Canberra, Dickson & Braddon:** Barbara & Catherine |

[CanberraCentral.Safeguarding@cg.org.au](mailto:CanberraCentral.Safeguarding@cg.org.au)

**St Joseph, O'Connor:** Noel | [OConnor.Safeguarding@cg.org.au](mailto:OConnor.Safeguarding@cg.org.au)

**St Thomas More, Campbell:** Margie | [Campbell.Safeguarding@cg.org.au](mailto:Campbell.Safeguarding@cg.org.au)

**Blackfriars, Watson:** Nicole | [Watson.Safeguarding@cg.org.au](mailto:Watson.Safeguarding@cg.org.au)

While the abovementioned email addresses are not available currently, please send any concerns or enquiries to: Maria Hicks, Manager Institute of Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS), at [ipss@cg.org.au](mailto:ipss@cg.org.au) or 02 6239 9806.

### CONNECT WITH US...

Moderator: Fr Renoir Jr. Z. Oliver, SSS

E: [renoir.oliver@cg.org.au](mailto:renoir.oliver@cg.org.au)

Community Superior: Fr Sebastian A. Luistro, SSS

E: [sebastian.luistro@cg.org.au](mailto:sebastian.luistro@cg.org.au)

Fr Anthony "Thonn" C. Riosa, SSS

E: [anthony.riosa@cg.org.au](mailto:anthony.riosa@cg.org.au)



[WWW.CGINNERNORTH.ORG.AU](http://WWW.CGINNERNORTH.ORG.AU)

Parish Secretaries:

Kathie Guillester and Cerisse Gomez

E: [innernorth@cg.org.au](mailto:innernorth@cg.org.au)

M: 0416 823 447 or 0412 128 038

P: PO Box 900, Dickson ACT 2602

### WE INCLUDE

#### IN OUR PRAYERS...

#### OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Clare Palmer, Damian Smith, Dianne Virginia Judge, Fr Francis Fuchs PP, Jim Smith, John Walton, Joseph Lucero, Loretta Gallagher, Maria Oanh Tran, Mary Holt, Mary Pavey, Patricia Aileen Sloan, Phillip Collett, Reubin Maraon, Rosa Mangeruca, Rosalinda Salazar, Roy Baculi, Ruth Schwensen and Shelagh Williamson

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

Alice McDonald, Aniceto Castro Agulto, Bill More, Dominica Cortese, Dominic Le, Domenica Maria, Domenico Musolino, Domingo Apolinar, Emilja Klaric, Florina Cabardo, Hazel Petry, Heather Pook, Isabel Sas Barnes, Jack (John Joseph) O'Brien, John Bryan, John Collett, John & Enid Prendergast, Kevin Tee, Lirio Lukban, Mary Kelly, Norbertus Purba, Pasquale Laria, Peter Tran, Ray Minius, Romeo Cabardo, Silvio Rossi, Terry Bird and Tony Boyle

#### SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Brian Brown, Carmela Lubis, Deacon Karel Anak Tingang, Don Gomez, Fr Michael Mullen, Genevieve Cuddihy, Maggie McKeown, Mairead Thomas, Maree Catlin, Marie Gallagher, Michael Deane, Paul Thorpe, Sally Grant, Una Bell and Veronica Sulo

*Prayer intentions will remain in the bulletin for four weeks.*



"BE WHO YOU WERE MEANT TO BE  
AND YOU WILL SET THE WORLD ON FIRE"  
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA