



St Mary's Parish

Incorporating the Catholic communities of Hamilton, Dunkeld, Macarthur, Glenthompson and Peshurst.

23 Dinwoodie Street
HAMILTON VIC 3300

Ph: 03 5571 1161

E-mail: hamilton@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Web: www.stmaryshamilton.org.au

4th Sunday of Lent, Year A

26 March 2017

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.

The word of the Lord.

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.

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

(or longer form 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. 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.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's gospel reading is the second in a series of three quite lengthy readings from the gospel of John that are a feature of the Lenten season in Year A of the liturgical cycle. The three readings address three significant themes and images: water; light; and new life. Although today's passage is about the healing of a blind man, the event takes place as part of a longer section of the gospel dealing with the image of light and specifically the image of Jesus as Light of the World.

The question asked by the disciples at the opening of this event is an interesting one. They ask, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' In Jewish culture at the time, any physical affliction was deemed to be punishment from God for sinful behaviour. As the man had been born blind, the suspicion falls on his parents as having committed such a terrible offence against God that their son is born blind. Jesus immediately rejects this interpretation of the man's affliction. Physical and mental illnesses or disabilities are in no way punishment from God.

Although the man's physical sight is restored by Jesus simply enough, his journey from darkness into light is a more complicated affair. He faces disbelief, ridicule and even abuse from the Jewish authorities as they try to discredit Jesus and diminish the impact of the miracle. In fact, their treatment of the man is what drives him along the road from recipient of an act of mercy to a confirmed believer. Furthermore, the Jewish authorities, despite their physical capacity for sight, are shown to be the ones who are truly blind and trapped in darkness because they deny the light that is before their very eyes.

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Parish Personnel

Fr Patrick Mugavin (Parish Priest)
patrick.mugavin@ballarat.catholic.org.au

John Hockey (Manager)
manager@stmaryshamilton.org.au

Carolyn Stanhope and Kymhan Watson (Secretaries)
hamilton@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Noreen McLeish (Sacramental & Liturgy)
faith@stmaryshamilton.org.au

Parish Contact Details:

Phone: 03 5571 1161

Office Opening Hours: 9am—4pm Tues to Fri

Email: hamilton@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Address: 23 Dinwoodie St, HAMILTON

Weekend Mass Times @ Hamilton: 6pm (Sat) & 10:30am (Sun)

Weekday Mass Times @ Hamilton Tue, Thur, Frid. 10am

& Wed 5.15pm

ST MARY'S PRIMARY, HAMILTON
Principal: Ms Jo-Anne Bond
Phone: (03) 5551 9000

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY, PENSURST
Principal: Mr Matthew Uzkuraitis
Phone: (03) 5576 5438

MONIVAE COLLEGE, HAMILTON
Principal: Mr Mark McGlennity
Phone: (03) 5551 1200

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the Gunditjmarra people.

Country Mass Schedule

	1 st Sun	2 nd Sun	3 rd Sun	4 th Sun	5 th Sun
Penshurst 8:30am	No Service (To Ham)	Mass	SAWC	Mass	Mass
Dunkeld 8:30am	Mass	No Service (To Glen)	Mass	SAWC	SAWC
Glenthompson 8:30am	SAWC	Mass	No Service (To Dunkeld)	Mass	SAWC
Macarthur 8:30am	No Service (To Ham)	SAWC	Mass	SAWC	Mass

St Joseph's Penshurst

18 April 2017 5th Sunday of Lent

Lector	No Service to Hamilton
Prayers	
Gifts	No Service to Hamilton
Special Minister	
Leader	No Service to Hamilton
Communion to Hospital	

Our Parish Collections

1st Collection: Priest Support: \$880 (Last Week)

2nd Collection: Stewardship (2016-2017 FY):

Pledged: \$115,076 Given: \$65,141

St Mary's Parish Mission Outreach

(10% of Stewardship)

Given this Financial Year;

Sr Lorde—Kenya Mission \$3,000

St Mary's Parish Ministry Roster

	25 & 26 March Ministers of Communion	1 & 2 April Ministers of Communion
6 pm	Jacinta R, Pauline M, Kerry S	Peter & Maureen D & Terrielynn G
10.30am	John O'D, Charlotte, Sebastian F, Angus C, & Glen H.	Terry H, Geraldine McD, Kymhan, Frank S.

Date	Welcome	Computer	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Commentator	Gifts	Cuppa	Count Team
25/03	Kylie-Anne S John S	Chris J	Jacinta R	Maureen D	Kerry S	Teresa T Julie G	Bob & Julie	Ray C Brian S & T Oliver
26/03	Shaw Family	Lachlan C	Charlotte S	Pippa W	Rohan F	Perkins Family	Maree B	
01/04	Helen W John S	Pauline M	Ted O	Ian F	John D	Francis & Rosemary	Brian & Trish	Ian F & Laurie S
02/04	Anne S Richard & Ursula	Val & Junior	Maree B	Richard B	Margaret R	Debra F	Sherrie & John	

St Mary's Parish Name Badges

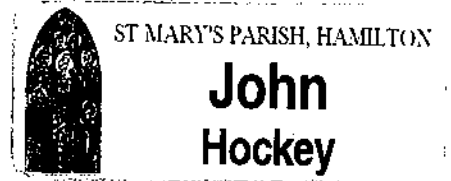
We want to be the most welcoming parish in Australia.

I do not need a badge!

I have been here for years and everyone knows me!

Perhaps not!

Did you know that we have many new parishioners
and visitors come to our Churches each year.



If we have a name badge it makes it easier for people to get to know us and then they will feel much more welcome! We would now like as many parishioners as possible to order their own badges!

To obtain a St Mary's Parish badge, please place your name on the sheet at the back of the churches over the next few weeks. Badges are \$6 each and can be paid for when they arrive.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Deaths: Brian McKay, Marie Meagher, Peter Ferrier.

Our Prayer & deepest sympathies are with these families. Peter's Funeral Mon.27 @ 2pm St Mary's.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Kevin McCabe, Joan Jones, Rev.Mons.James McInerney, Ellen Storer, Ethel Pedrina, Monica Hockey, Joan Mugavin, Monica Lucas, Peg Walsh.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Rachael Cunningham

What's happening this week in St Mary's Parish

Sunday *Rosary* 7pm St Mary's Church
Wednesday *Meditation* 7.30-8.30pm Parish House
Men's day out Maryknoll 1.30-4.30pm
Wed. Meet Up 9.30-11.30am Dunworth
Thursday *Stations of the Cross* 7pm

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday April 10, 2017.

PRAYER

O God, Light for the journey,
your word is a lamp for our feet
and a guiding light for our path.

Open our minds, illumine our hearts,
that we may see your love's glow
in all we meet,

and that even in the dark,
we may trust your light to shine.

May your light bring us
clarity of vision, peace of mind,
and courage to act justly in our world.

We ask this prayer through your Son,
Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world.

Amen

Reconciliation

2017

St Mary's Parish
congratulates the
following children as
they celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation this
week.

Penshurst - Olivia Page, Adam Page,
Loralie Gibbs, Adele Cook, Nellie Mullins.
Hamilton - Seamus Byron, Jude Alexander,
Chloe Wormald, Jayde Brown,
Sophie Kuilboer, Holly Rook, Fergus
McDonald, Lachlan McDonald, Mia Spong,
Stella Grinham, Poppy Diedrichs, Sarah Philip,
Clifford Deloso, Lennon Deloso.

*Our prayerful blessings are with them as they
continue on their Sacramental Journey.*



Volunteers needed

Please let us know if you will be
available over Holy Week.

Please place Name on Sheet in
the gathering space Notice Board and select which
day/s you are available over Holy Week triduum.



FLOWER donations are also required
please leave flowers in provided buckets in
gathering space of church on or before
9am Wed. 12 April. **THANK YOU.**



St Mary's Parish

PROJECT
COMPASSION

Fourth Sunday of Lent

26th March 2017



Nguyet from Vietnam,

In a small town in Vietnam, a severe disability kept young Nguyet behind closed doors. Constrained by the high demands of her condition, her parents were also isolated from their neighbours. There is a high level of disability in Vietnam, particularly as a legacy of war, but little support for families whose children have disabilities. People with disability have poorer health outcomes, lower educational achievements, lower economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disability.



The future seemed bleak for the whole family, until Nguyet's family became participants in a program supported by Caritas Australia. A neighbour kindly introduced the family to the Capacity Building for Parent Associations Supporting Children with Disabilities program, which has given them support on several levels. The neighbour, a teacher, has been able to offer Nguyet home-based education, and there is capacity building for her parents and others in the same situation, through their local Parents' Association. At Association meetings, Nguyet's mother has been able to increase her skills for managing her daughter's condition, and share her experiences with other parents of children with disabilities.

Nguyet has learnt to read and write and better manage her physical needs, and her creative gifts have been unlocked. Now she is increasingly engaging with her neighbours, and she and her parents are more confident about her future.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and give children living with disabilities in Vietnam the opportunity for education and inclusion in their community.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

*We welcome
into the family of God
through Baptism at
St Mary's Parish Hamilton
on Sunday each March*

*Jonny
Hudson
McKenzie*

*Son of
Fadhlan &
Kelsey*



*Jed
Ploken*

*Son of
Sean &
Joelene*



*Max
Samuel
Haeusler*

*Son of
Sam &
Lauren*

