



## Sacred Heart Parish (Canonically Erected 1868) Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

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### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / LAETARE SUNDAY - YEAR A - 15 MARCH 2026



“We must trust in the mighty power of God’s mercy. We are all sinners, but His grace transforms us and makes us new.” - Pope Benedict XVI

**Entrance Antiphon:** 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

*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.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 22

**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** Ephesians 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.**

**Gospel Acclamation** 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 (*Longer form 9:1-41*)

*A reading 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.**

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

**Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible**

