



St. Lawrence's Parish Coonabarabran

A Reflection on Today's Gospel
by *Dianne Bergant CSA*

Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.

By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

PROJECT COMPASSION
"GO FURTHER, TOGETHER"



32 year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. Until now Sakun, an indigenous Gond woman, has been isolated in her community, unable to earn a livelihood and without knowledge of government schemes that could help her.

Sakun lives with her sister in a rural area of Chhattisgarh, India's poorest state. Home to 26 million people, with 10 million living in poverty.

Life is hard in this region, and even harder for the state's indigenous people. Sakun belongs to the Gond tribal community which is amongst India's officially designated Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Historically disadvantaged, they suffer higher poverty rates than other parts of India.

In 2018, Sakun joined a Caritas Australia-funded program which is implemented by Caritas India and its local partner, Samarthan. Through their strategic guidance and support, Sakun learned new skills and gained important mobility. Sakun now earns her own income and makes a small profit which goes towards her family's basic needs. She is more resilient, confident and more independent.

<u>Mass Times this week</u>			<u>Sacrament of Penance</u> 5 pm	<u>Word & Faith Bible Study Group</u> Wednesdays at 10AM In Coonabarabran Thursdays at 8AM & 10AM in Baradine Except in Baradine in School Holidays)	<u>BAPTISMS:</u> Sundays at 11AM by Appointment: Contact Parish Office 6842 1043
23 Mon	No Mass				
24 Tue	St. Lawrence's	6.00 PM			
25 Wed	St. Lawrence's	6.00 PM			
26 Thur	St. John's, Baradine	1.00 PM			
27 Fri	St. Lawrence's	9.00 AM			
28 Sat	St. John's, Baradine	6.00 PM			
29 Sun	St. Lawrence's	9.30 AM			

ALL WELCOME



We acknowledge the original owners of this land, and pay respects to the elders and deceased members, of the Gamilaroi people.



St John's Church Baradine

Prayer to Jesus for Healing

O Jesus,
 I am grateful for
 your mercy and
 compassion.
 You healed all those,
 that approached you
 in faith.
 In your suffering and
 death,
 you redeemed my
 infirmities
 and those of the
 human race.
 I join my suffering to
 yours,
 and ask for your
 healing mercy.
 Give me the strength
 and courage
 to overcome all
 adversities.
 Amen.

(Source: churchyear.net by David Bennett)

Readings for next week

29th March, 2020
5th Sunday of Lent.

Ezek 37: 12-14
Rom 8: 8-11
Jn 11: 1-45

Psalter Week 1



Bishop Michael McKenna: It seems prudent in this uncertain situation to take this small precautionary step of not sharing the chalice. To our elderly parishioners, please take the time to think about coming to celebrate Mass on Sundays, especially if you are unwell. A reminder to all of our parishioners: if you are **unwell**, please stay at home.

Until further notice, Holy water will not be available to help minimize any possible contamination, and the Sign of Peace will not be given during the Mass.

For Sale today in Church Foyers: Little White Books, reflections on Eastertime: \$4

“The Swag” also available today.



The National Pilgrimage by the Relics

Following our wonderful experience of hosting the relics of St Therese and her parents Louis and Zelig Martin, Catholic Mission have asked that anyone who would like to share their experience to send a short email to:

communications@catholicmission.org.au

setting out how your participation affected you and what the experience meant to you. These will be included on the Catholic Mission website without any identifying information and then sent to Lisieux so they can have a record of how the pilgrimage was received in Australia.

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the relics will not be able to continue its current itinerary, leaving a lot of disappointed parishes and parishioners around the country. Please help to preserve lasting memories of the relics by participating.

Prayer by Pope Francis in this time of Epidemic

O Mary, you shine always on our way as a sign of our safety and hope
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the foot of the cross bound yourself to the suffering of Jesus, keeping strong in your faith.

O Salvation of God's people you know what we need and we are sure that you will provide it for us just as at Cana of Galilee the joy and feasting could return after that moment of trial.

Mother of Divine Love, help us, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us,

He who took upon Himself our sufferings and is marked by our sorrows and so leads us, toward the Cross, to the Joy of the Resurrection. Amen

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

What can you do? - health.gov.au

Good hygiene includes: covering your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue, disposing of tissues properly, washing your hands often with soap and water, including before and after eating and after going to the toilet, using alcohol-based hand sanitisers, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, if you are sick, avoiding contact with others and staying more than 1.5 metres away from people, cleaning and sanitizing frequently used objects such as mobiles, keys and wallets.

Social distancing: One way to slow the spread of virus is social distancing. There are practical things you can do, to protect those more susceptible to the virus. **Households:** Practice good hand and cough/sneeze hygiene. Avoid handshaking and other physical greetings, Regularly clean shared high-touch surfaces, such as tables, kitchen benches and doorknobs, Increase the amount of fresh air by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning, Buy more goods and services online so you limit visits to the shop, Consider what travel and outings are necessary, both individual and family, and go to open places such as parks.

Who is most at risk: In Australia, the people most at risk of getting the virus are those who have: recently been in a high risk country or region (mainland China, Iran, Italy or Korea), been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19. Based on what we know about coronaviruses, those most at risk of serious infection are: people with compromised immune systems (such as people who have cancer), elderly people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (as they have higher rates of chronic illness), people with chronic medical conditions, people in group residential settings, people in detention facilities.

How it spreads: The virus can spread from person to person through: close contact with an infectious (including in the 24 hours before they started showing symptoms), contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze, touching objects or surfaces (like doorknobs or tables) that have cough or sneeze droplets from an infected person, and then touching your mouth or face.

COVID – 19 is a new disease, so there is no existing immunity in our community. This means that COVID -19 could spread widely and quickly.

A letter to parishioners from Bishop McKenna, regarding COVID – 19 – 18/3/2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Slowing the spread of COVID – 19 has required an unprecedented response from our public health authorities. We need to trust their expert judgement and co-operate together with their advice and directives. As Christians, we pray especially for the elderly and vulnerable and for healthcare workers and all who are on the front line in this emergency. I am just back from Vietnam, so have gone into self-isolation at Matthew Quinn House for two weeks. Although I arrived home before the legal requirement came into effect, I have thought it prudent to observe the spirit of the public health directive.

As you know, our usual life has already been disrupted, including the routines of worshipping God together. I want to update you on the latest precautions we have had to take:

1. The latest directive from the public health authorities is that indoor gatherings of more than 100 persons are prohibited. This means that attendance at each Sunday Mass must be limited to that number, unless the Mass is celebrated outdoors.
In small communities this will not be a problem, but each larger parish is making its own plans to deal with the situation there. People should check with their parish website or office to find out how they will be affected.
At this time, it would be advisable for elderly parishioners to celebrate Mass on weekdays, rather than on Sunday.
It is also possible to pray and follow Mass online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews>
2. Special announcements regarding the celebration of Holy Week and Easter will be made according to the developing situation.
3. Attendance at funerals will need to be limited to close family and friends.
4. The Sacrament of Anointing of the sick will continue to be administered individually to those who need it, but Anointing Masses are suspended until further notice.

Check with your parish priest about arrangements for the other Sacraments during this time.

May I close with a prayer of St Patrick, the patron of our Diocese:

“Lord, I praise and proclaim your name in all places, not only when things go well but also in times of stress. Whether I receive good or ill, I return thanks equally to God, who taught me always to trust him unreservedly.”

Our Lady of the Central West, St Patrick and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,

+Michael McKenna
Bishop of Bathurst

Coonabarabran Roster				Mass Intentions
		22 March	29 March	<p>Please pray for the sick of our parish community and family members: Rodrigo Jaboneta, Regina Lemon, Sr. Madeline Breen, Bill Campbell, Jacinta Mallon, Greta Sutherland, Nancy Hadfield, Tim Forrest, Percy Milsom, Sr. Maureen Sanderson, Lisa Williams, Cedric Hicks, Ben Robinson, Fr. Tim Cahill, Jack Shannon, Sandra Wark, Charlie Knight, Margaret Collins (Sutton), Roland Soussa, Albert Markland, John Estens.</p> <p>Prayer for the Sick <i>Merciful God, hear our voices joined today With people all over the world as we pray for those who are sick.</i> <i>O gentle Companion, help all suffering people to recognize your sacred presence in the broken spaces of their lives.</i> <i>Send your healing Spirit to all who suffer the pain of physical, emotional and spiritual illness.</i> <i>May the gift of your presence be light for their long, lonely nights.</i> Amen</p>
1 st Reading		Graeme Giles	Anita Tighe	
2 nd Reading		Natasha Milford	Noraine Railz	
Commentator		Mary Graham	Natasha Milford	
Collectors		Brendan Young John McEvoy	Andrew Young Murray Martin	
Prep Gifts		Len & Leanne Roberts	Duncan & Mary Graham	
Communion				
P1		Jen Thirkell	Carmel M	
P2		Mary Milsom	Kevin T	
C1				
C2				
C3				
Altar Servers		Shae, Siarne & Makai Davis	Baxter & Fletcher Young & Clancy Pickette	
Computer		Meegan Young	Kay Martin	
Welcomers		Len & Leanne Roberts	Wendy Abberton Betty Turnbull	

Parish Office St Lawrence's Parish, 14 Namoi Street (P.O. Box 38) Coonabarabran NSW 2357

Office Hours 9.00 AM to 3.15 PM Tuesday - Friday.

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Finance Committee Kevin Tighe ▪ Ambrose Doolan ▪ Neil Cooney ▪ Carmel Munns ▪ Fr Reynold Jaboneta

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W <http://www.stlawriescoona.catholic.edu.au>

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