

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

2nd March 2008

### THEME: John 9: 1-41

In today's readings we are presented with the contrast of darkness and light, of blindness and clear-sightedness. Let us pray to perceive God in our midst and to hear God's word in our hearts.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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!

### FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Friday 7th March - First Friday, Sacred Heart

### SEEING AND BELIEVING

A thing we might begin to see if we allow Jesus to heal our blindness is the **overlooked population**. These are the ones who are there but are often unseen because they do not count in anyone's eyes. These are the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the out-of-work, the immigrants, the underemployed, the marginalised and the handicapped. At times, the overlooked force us to see them because their burden has caused them to become obnoxious and demanding. But like Jesus, we are to look beyond the bluster with which they protect themselves and see them with eyes of love and patient caring.

Healing from Jesus can enable us to see with fresh eyes the love God has for us and to recognise the many hints of that love punctuating our days and nights. To see the beauties of nature as sacraments of God's love will lead to a newfound gratitude. To see the burdens of life as opportunities for leaning more deliberately on God will bring new strength. To see the image of God reflected in the faces of those we love, and in those whom **we have yet to learn to love**, can lead to deeper insight into the very mind and heart of God.

All these many ways of seeing are ours from God as gift, and all have the capacity to move us beyond mere physical sight to the seeing that we call faith.

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

### **Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:**

Br Pat Keogh, Gerri Boldrini, Mary Egan, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Kathy Hendry, Allanah Barnes, Anthony Gilchrist, Rosel Free, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Sharon Witteveen, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Helen Saffrey, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, John Williams, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Brenden Aldridge, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods, Marie Cook and Luke Westaway.

### **Grant eternal life to:**

Bruce Stanton, Ian Read, Sr Cecilia Everard (Ireland), Mary Byrne, Jocelyn Fisher, Harold Phibbs, Mollie Higgins, Pauline Blissett, Alma Whitehead and all our dear ones deceased.

### **Anniversaries:**

Peter Blattman, Ruth Dick, Leo Dick and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

### **And Also:**

Carmel Hunter, Bert Scammell, Eileen, Gus, Patrick, Patricia, Bonnie & Kerry Roche, Anthony Kell, Lorraine Hill, Bill Livsey, Rose & Harry Livsey, Mary & Bill Kotthoff, Noel & Peter Rothe, Philip Smith, Victor Bruce, Lil Munk, Frank Kelly, Henry Wynter, John Dallinger, Malcolm Nicholson, Sr Helen Shortall RSM, Sr Monica Esler, Brian Esler, Dan Moore, Alice Plunkett, Clare Flynn & the Flynn Family and all our dear ones deceased.

## **LORD HEAR US**

## **FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Each Friday evening during Lent at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Church.

### **PROJECT COMPASSION**

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes which are at the back of the church.

### **CANCELLATION OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - Sacred Heart Church North, Albury**

Due to other commitments in our Parish on Friday 7th March, we have to cancel Eucharistic Adoration. We do apologise for this unforeseen inconvenience.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 7th March 2008 at 10.00am at St Matthew's Church, Kiewa Street, Albury. All parishioners are cordially invited to attend.

## **PALM SUNDAY COMMISSIONING MASS**

A commissioning of WYD08 pilgrimage and group leaders will take place at the 10.30am Palm Sunday Mass at St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga. Everybody is invited to attend. A BBQ lunch will be provided. A free bus may also be provided depending on numbers. If you are interested in coming, please indicate by adding your name to the list at the back of the church.

## **10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

The Shrine of Divine Mercy at 'Marian Hills' celebrates its 10th anniversary on the Feast of Divine Mercy, Sunday 30th March with Bishop Hanna as the principal celebrant. 11.15am - confessions and rosary, 12.30pm - Mass followed by BYO lunch, 2.15pm - Eucharistic procession, 3.00pm - Chaplet and Benediction. For more information please see the brochures in the porch of the church or call (02) 6927 6438.

## **ALBURY COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES DEBUTANTE BALL 2008**

A meeting will be held on 2nd March at 7.00pm at St Patrick's Hall, Smollett Street Albury for young ladies wishing to make their Debut at the Debutante Ball to be held on 13th and 14th June 2008. For further inquiries, please call Shoshanna Griffin on 6043 2226 or 0407 942 106 or Imelda Coeli on 6021 2291.

## **CARPENTERS' BREAKFAST**

All men of the parish are invited to the next Carpenters' Breakfast on Saturday 8th March 2008 at 7.30am in St Patrick's Meeting Room behind the Hall. This will include a complimentary breakfast and an address by Mons. Fulton.

## **MEALS ON WHEELS**

St Patrick's Meals on Wheels Team will deliver meals the week commencing Monday 3rd March 2008.

## **THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY**

- \* Drinks tax hike to fight alcohol abuse
- \* Bishop warns on violence in video games

## **CHOIR PRACTICE**

Choir practice for Easter will continue next Saturday 8th March at 12.00noon at St Patrick's Church. All welcome. Please contact John Harrold on 6021 4079.

## **REGISTER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY**

Please pick up a '**Step by Step Guide to Registering**' or an '**Expression of Interest**' form from the back of the Church. Registrations with the Diocese close 31st March.

## **JOURNEY OF THE CROSS & ICON (JCI)**

The WYD Cross & Icon will be at St Patrick's on Thursday 6th March. Please pick up a blue program at the church doors.

## **BILLETING FOR WYD DAYS IN THE DIOCESE**

If you are able to provide accommodation for young people coming from Europe in July 2008 for the days in the diocese, please fill in a billeting form from the back of the church. For more information on this and activities for World Youth Day see the noticeboard or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 after 5.30pm or email [mizmim@gmail.com](mailto:mizmim@gmail.com)

## **ST PATRICK'S PRAYER GROUP**

St Patrick's Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 8.00pm. For details contact Kath: 6021 3821 or Maree: 6021 4533. All welcome.

## **ST PATRICK'S YOUTH GROUP**

First Sunday of every month after 5.30pm Mass in St Patrick's Hall. For ages 12+. Dinner provided. For more information please see the poster at the back of the church or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 after 5.30pm or email: [mizmim@gmail.com](mailto:mizmim@gmail.com)

## **SNIPPET**

Young people will be able to carry, touch, pray with and give testimony to their faith and love wherever the Cross and Icon are taken in Australia (website [www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org))