

# THE BULLETIN

Sunday, 15th March 2026

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

## **Gospel 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.

*Our Mission:  
Building a Loving Christ-Centred Community*



**Parish Administrator:**  
Fr Joy D'Souza OCD  
**Chief Executive Officer:**  
Michael Darragh  
**Administration Officer:**  
Jennifer Oliver  
**Pastoral Associate:**  
Margaret Ryan

**Church**  
Corner of East Street & Fourth Avenue, Sawtell

**Parish Office - 02/6658 3544**  
1/44 Boronia Street, Sawtell  
NSW 2452. Office Hours are  
Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.

**Church Mass Times**  
Tuesday 9:30am  
Thursday 9:30am  
Saturday 6pm  
Sunday 7:30am & 9am  
*Reconciliation every Saturday 5:30pm  
no appointment necessary*

**Chapel Mass Times**  
Our Lady of the Way at SCC  
Marian Grove, Toormina  
Wednesday 9:30am  
Friday 9:30am

**PARISH GIVING**  
First & Second  
Collection + Donations



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SIGN UP ROSTERS – OUT NOW!

You can sign-up by writing your name on the sheet at the entrance doors of the Church **or** scan the QR code and make your selections! (Google form).  
All Ministries included - even Altar  
Serving for the kids! So easy!



## MASS MINISTRY ROSTERS

A huge 'thank you' to our existing Mass ministry volunteers. Our new roster (running through the end of May) begins this week. If we have your email address, you would have received a copy via email. Physical copies are also available to collect at the church.

## MINISTRY OF THE WEEK:

### The Offertory Procession (Procession of Gifts)

Have you ever felt called to take a more active role in the Mass? Bringing the bread and wine to the altar is more than just a task - it is a powerful symbol of our entire congregation's participation in the Eucharist.

When you carry the gifts, you represent all of us as we offer our lives to God.

**Who can serve?** Anyone! This is a perfect opportunity for families, couples, or individuals to participate together.

**The Impact:** It is a simple yet profound way to enter deeper into the liturgy.



## POWERPOINT OPERATORS NEEDED

We are still looking for volunteers to help run the PowerPoint at all Masses. If you're worried about the 'tech' side of things, don't be!

- **Guided Training:** We will pair you with an experienced operator for a few weeks of 'co-piloting'.
- **Confidence First:** You won't have to fly solo until you feel 100% ready.



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Next Sunday, March 22nd at 11:00 AM, children from our parish will celebrate their First Holy Communion. This weekend, we will formally present these candidates to the community at all Masses. Please keep these young parishioners in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Eucharist for the first time.



### **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 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.

### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. v.1**

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

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.

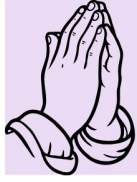
Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

**PLEASE NOTE: THAT THE SATURDAY VIGIL MASS WILL CHANGE TO 5PM  
FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY & AUGUST.**

# Mass Roster for Fifth Sunday of Lent - 22nd March 2026

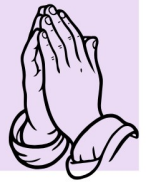
| MASSES        | Co-Ordinator                | Welcomer              | Ex. Minister | Sacristan    | Offertory             | Reader     | P/point Op                         | Senior Altar Server |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Saturday 6pm  | Jeanette Walsh              | Pat Winter            | Ann Brennan  | Les Michalik | I&J Wheeler           | P Sercombe | Cate Clark                         | L Michalik          |
| Sunday 7:30am | Sheila Latham               | John & Marie Hendriks | Ellen Leary  | Lyn Hollyman | K&B McWilliam         | B Moroney  | Paul Daly                          | L Hollyman          |
| Sunday 9am    | Wal Samut & Louise Thompson | Madonna & Marie       | Wal Samut    | C Tumminello | <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b> | Carol Pye  | Marthese Baiada & Stephanie Devine | J Baiada            |

If you didn't receive the new roster via email, please email us - [admin@mhocsawtell.org.au](mailto:admin@mhocsawtell.org.au)



*Please pray for...*

*Recently Deceased - Samuel Leis, Brian Beynon, Kevin Bamber  
The Sick - Sally Towns, Carolyn Mash*



## 2026 Holy Week & Easter

### The Chrism Mass - Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March

11am at St Carthages in Lismore

### Second Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday, 25th March at 6pm

### Palm Sunday Mass - 29<sup>th</sup> March

Saturday at 6pm, Sunday at 7:30am  
& Choir, Procession of Palms and  
Passion Reading  
on Sunday at 9am

### Holy Thursday - 2<sup>nd</sup> April

at 6pm with Adoration to 8pm

### Good Friday - 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Stations of the Cross at 9:30am  
Passion of the Lord at 3pm

**Sign up  
here to  
help!**



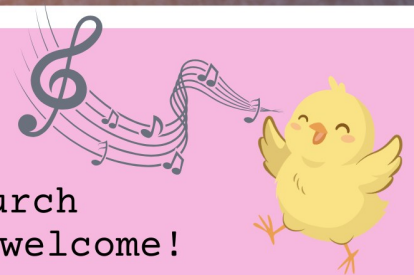
**Saturday Easter Vigil**  
4<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm

**Easter Sunday**  
5<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
7:30am & 9am

**Easter Eggs for the kids**

### Choir Practice for Easter

The choir will be singing at Easter Services, 9am Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Vigil. Practice is Tuesday in the church 7pm-8pm, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March. All voices welcome!



### The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office

the Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)



Interest Rate—3.40%

For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website [www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) or contact us on 1800 802 516

**EVERY TUESDAY**

**CENACLE ROSARY**  
3PM IN  
THE CHURCH  
ALL WELCOME

