



22ND MARCH 2020

YEAR A

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF

SOCKBURN

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

CHRISTCHURCH

WWW.OLV.CO.NZ

In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.



BISHOP PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

(the full letter is available in the church foyer)

Effective immediately, all Masses are to cease until further notice. Churches may remain open seven days a week for private prayers and reflection. Since public masses are now suspended in the diocese I am dispensing all Catholics in the Diocese from their obligation to attend a Sunday Mass. This is in accordance with Canon 1248. This will remain until such time as we are able to resume the public celebration of the Eucharist.

Next Sunday's Readings

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14
Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11
Gospel: John 11:1-45

PARISH NOTICES

PLANNED GIVING AND TAX RECEIPTS

If you are able to you may still give to the parish with planned giving envelopes during this time of no Mass. Please place your envelope in the safe in the church foyer (turn the handle to ensure your envelope has safely been deposited.) or in the mailbox outside the parish office. Your tax receipt for this financial year will be posted in **mid April** or you can collect during the week days from the Parish office after this time. If you would like to start paying through automatic payment during this time of uncertainty the parish bank account number is below. Please provide your family name and first name as a reference.

Sockburn Parish
03 0802 0949349 20

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The next few weeks for Stations of the Cross are now cancelled.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Parish will still be collecting food on behalf of St Vincent De and Catholic Social Services. Please continue to drop your non perishable food items in to the basket in the church so we can continue to serve our needy in the community. At this time breakfast spreads and canned food is low, especially canned fruit.

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY COLLEGE

St Thomas of Canterbury College is once again participating in the Shave for a Cure! we will be sacrificing our untamed locks for a future of cold heads for the sake of raising funds for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ and all the good work they do. They provide a wide array of support to those who are diagnosed and are an important source of funding for research into blood cancer, with the goal of developing better treatments. You can support us and help us reach our sponsorship goal by donating what you can to this great cause.

<https://shaveforacure.everydayhero.com/nz/dan-s-shave-for-a-cure>

DIOCESAN NOTICES

For other Diocesan notices please see the Diocesan website

www.chchcatholic.nz

CANCELLATION - GOLDEN CATHOLICS

It is with regret that I have to advise that due to the Coronavirus it has been decided to cancel the 25th March 2020 event. It is felt that in the current circumstances it would be unwise for those of us in our golden years to be in such a confined area. Hopefully we will be able to resume our get togethers in July.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Christchurch Diocesan conference. March 20-21 has unfortunately been cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

WALK FOR LIFE

Due to the restrictions on gatherings of more than 500, the Walk for Life scheduled for 28 March has now been postponed.

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORK

Given the situation with COVID-19, the Catholic Business Network will be postponing the luncheon scheduled for March 26, 2020. The event will be held later in the year, possibly June or October, depending on further advise from the government and the Ministry of Health closer to the event.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

A few enquiries have been received regarding Coronavirus and the liturgy. The Bishops' Conference has a plan for guidelines to be put in place should this be needed, with the situation being continually monitored. More information can be found on the diocesan website www.chchcatholic.nz

DIOCESAN MASS FOR LIFE

Wednesday March 25th at 7.30pm St Mary's Pro Cathedral. Please check with St Mary's that this has not been cancelled before attending.

*May these, and all who
sleep in Christ, find in
His presence light,
happiness & peace*

We remember those whose funerals were held at OLV church and whose anniversaries occur around this time:

22/3 Francis Cantwell, Sr M Veronica Paget RSM,
23/3 Kenneth Werner, Harry Eggers, Eileen Kennedy
24/3 Leonard Brown, George Airey, Iris Price, Helen Van der Werf,
25/3 Margaret Stopforth,
26/3 Lal Scott, Herbert Rosindale
27/3 James Newnham, Walter Ellis, Pauline Longley,
Kenneth Cameron, Patrick Dugan, 28/3 Pamela Jacques

Please also remember in your Prayers Kevin Fauth (recently) formally of Greymouth

A Faith Response to the Coronavirus

A good starting point is to remember that the most repeated phrase in the Bible is **“Do not be afraid!”** or **“Have no fear!”** The consistent message we hear in the Bible is that we need to trust in God, who will provide enough for everyone.

Protect the Vulnerable

Scripture and the social teachings of the church remind us again and again that we as individuals and a society must protect and give priority to those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We see this from the laws in the Old Testament that looked out for the poor and the widows, to Jesus' embrace of people on the margins of society, to the early church's adamant support of those who had less. The Bible urges us to put those who are most at risk first. In the midst of the coronavirus, the vulnerable take many forms. Most obvious are those who are elderly or have other health conditions that make them most susceptible to illness. Those who are younger may not be concerned about our own health risks, but if we help pass on the virus, it can be a life-or-death situation for others.

What You Can Do

Stop the spread. Even if you are not particularly concerned about the risk to yourself or your own family, these tactics will protect others who may be more vulnerable.

- Wash your hands well for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. •
- Stay home if you become ill.
- Have compassion for those most at risk
- Stand up for those who need the most help and make sure they
- Check on isolated or vulnerable neighbours to help with specific tasks.

Remember to **PRAY** each day for those suffering and for those that care for them. For those that may be anxious and those who are vulnerable.

Let us remember that “Our God is kind and merciful” as we support one another in our choices and in prayer.

WEEKLY LITURGY

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO MASSES AVAILABLE. *Please read the bulletin for further updates or check the notices displayed in the church*

Parish Contacts

olv@xtra.co.nz (Wednesday - Friday)
348 6100 (Wednesday - Friday)

Community of St John St Teresa Parish

348 6456



PARISH OFFICE

Wednesday to Friday

8.00am - 4.00pm

These hours are subject to change without notice

There is a Mail Box outside the Parish Office.