

# Sunday Liturgy of the Word

## *at home*

### 4th Sunday of Lent (Year A)

#### GATHER

- Prepare by tidying the room, finding a Bible and crucifix and lighting a candle as a reminder of God's presence.
- Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise, and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord.
- Make the sign of the cross.
- Sing or listen to 'The Lord is my shepherd' or 'Open my eyes'.

#### PRAY FOR MERCY

For the times when we have not loved you as you love us.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the times when we have not forgiven as you forgive.

*Christ, have mercy.*

For the times when we have not been thankful for all of your gifts. *Lord, have mercy.*

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and lead us to life everlasting. *Amen.*

#### READ

Visit [universalis.com](http://universalis.com) for readings at Mass.

#### First reading

1 Samuel 16:1, 6–7, 10–13: *David is anointed by Samuel.*

#### Responsorial psalm

Psalm 22(23)

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

#### Second reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

*Anything exposed by the light will turn into light.*

#### Gospel acclamation

John 8:12

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.*

#### Gospel

Jerusalem Bible © 1966 by Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Company Inc.

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.

#### REFLECT

For adults

Today's gospel is the famous story of the man born blind who comes to believe in Christ. It tells of his journey from blindness to sight, from darkness to faith in Jesus. It also addresses those who avoid the light, choosing to remain blind to God's saving presence. The man born blind not only gains sight but also comes to a firm faith in Jesus: 'Lord, I believe,' he says, and worships him. At times we too can be blind to the presence of Christ in our lives. Let our prayer today be one that leads us on our journey to see Jesus, the light of the world.

Visit [melbournecatholic.org.au/lent](http://melbournecatholic.org.au/lent) for further Lent reflections.

For children

- I wonder what the blind man saw first?
- I wonder what Jesus sees when he looks at you?

Jesus tells us he is the light of the world, and we share his light through what we say and do.

#### PRAY

The Creed ...

For ourselves, the world and the church

Loving Father

We pray for our country, our world and our church at this time of trial; help us to trust in you today. Lord, hear us.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

May we be mindful of others, particularly the sick, elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

Lord, hear us.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Take a moment to offer your own prayers to God

Our Father ...

The blessing

May God bless and keep us,

May God's face shine on us,

May God be kind to us and give us peace.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
*Amen.*