



# Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish

Catholic Diocese of Bunbury

Dunsborough, WA



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## First Reading

**1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13**

***In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.***

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.

The Word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

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

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

***Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.***

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.

The Word of the Lord.

## 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!***

## Gospel

**John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38**

***The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.***

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Communion Antiphon

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

**Pope's Intention for March 2026: FOR DISARMAMENT AND PEACE**

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



**REFLECTION**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

Live as children of light. (Ephesians 5:8)

It's no wonder St. Paul uses the analogy of light when he exhorts us to live in a manner worthy of our calling as disciples. Light is necessary to sustain life. It's essential for the photosynthesis process so that plants can provide us with food and produce the oxygen that we need to breathe. Light helps to regulate our sleep cycle, our mood, and our hormones, and it strengthens our immune system. Put simply, it's light that keeps us alive.

Paul tells us that before we were baptized into Christ, we lived in darkness, but now that we have received his Spirit, we have his light within us. We still live in a fallen world, however, and it might seem at times that we are surrounded only by darkness. But Paul is clear about who we are in Christ: We are now "light in the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8). We aren't just recipients of his light; we are light. That means that we need to "take no part in the fruitless works of darkness" (5:11). We can reject sin and commit to loving God and our neighbour.

So, Paul gives us some advice on what living as "children of light" looks like. He tells us to "learn what is pleasing to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8, 10). And how do we do that? By being consistent in prayer, by pondering the Scriptures, and by staying "awake" to the Spirit (5:13). When we let Jesus shed his light into our hearts, we experience greater freedom and healing from sin. As we allow his light to shine through us, we are able to guide others to him.

In the same way in which natural light is essential for our physical life, we need the spiritual light of Christ to keep our inner lives healthy. And when his light shines through us, we will produce "every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth" (Ephesians 5:9).

"Jesus, you are my light! Help me to let your light shine through me."

- from *The Word Among Us*



**PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**Special Intentions:**

- For the intentions of our EMHC, acolytes, commentators, lectors, musicians, mass servers, sacristans, greeter, and collectors;
- For the intentions of our PPC members, Parish Finance Committee members, bookkeeper, and bankers;
- For the intentions of our church and ground cleaners, morning tea manpower and food donors;
- For the intentions of God's Farm & Bove Farm; and for all the residents of Cape Care Dunsborough;
- For the intentions of our RCIA candidates and our RCIA Team;
- We also pray for some members of our parish, and our families who are sick - we pray for their speedy recovery.

- We pray for all the students of Our Lady of the Cape Primary and Dunsborough Primary who are preparing themselves to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation.

**We Pray for the Repose of Souls (Death Anniversaries):**

- 14/03 - Lourdes Rebise Chugani
- 15/03 - Justin John Robinson; Peter D'Alessandro
- 16/03 - Veronica Kelderman
- 18/03 - Trevor Watkins;
- 19/03 - Richard Leavy
- 20/03 - Julia Robinson



**Pope Leo XIV: Learn hospitality from St. Joseph & the Holy Family**

**The grace of an encounter**

Pope Leo XIV said that at the heart of every authentic welcome, there is a relationship born from the grace of an encounter. He explained that it is precisely within this dynamic of encounter that the decision to dedicate the fourth edition of the "Cathedra" to young people is situated.

**Presence and care**

The Pope said he wished to dwell on two words, namely "presence" and "care," which help illuminate the Christian meaning of hospitality.

"To be present in the lives of others," Pope Leo XIV emphasized, "means sharing time, experiences, and meaning, offering stable points of reference in which others can recognize themselves and grow."

"To care," Pope Leo said, "means to stand beside the other with attention, to respect their choices, and to take responsibility for them."

**The experience of the Holy Family**

Pope Leo suggested that the Gospel episode in which Mary and Joseph cannot find Jesus, and, in anguish, find Him again after three days in the Temple, teaches that the presence of the other is not automatic but the result of a constant search.

"In this way," he said, "we will stop looking for a God made to our own measure and instead encounter Him where He dwells."

Seeking Jesus, Pope Leo XIV added, therefore means passing from the security of our convictions to the responsibility of encounter, learning to see and welcome the presence of God who is always "beyond."

**St. Joseph's powerful example**

"This is precisely what Saint Joseph did in safeguarding the family entrusted to him by the Lord," Pope Leo said.

In Joseph, the Pope explained, we recognize that welcoming, in addition to presence, is also care.

-excerpts from the *Vatican News*



**PARISH NOTICES**

**Invitation from God’s Farm**

God’s Farm Eucharistic Adoration weekend is March 20-21. Fr Pavol, visiting from Perth, will preside at holy Mass and benediction 11am Saturday 21st. Confession will precede mass at 10am - 10.45am. Shared lunch to follow. All welcome! RSVP Mary 0438054199.

**Project Compassion of Caritas Australia**

Let us continue to generously support Caritas Australia in alleviating poverty. Please choose any way of sending your financial help to Caritas Australia. Instructions are at the foyer.

**Initial Parish Activities to Celebrate our 35th Anniversary of Consecration of the Church Building and Altar**

- Renewal of Baptismal Promises in April.
- Spiritual Formation in April: Prayer Workshop
- Marian devotion event in May.
- Renewal of Marriage Vows in June.
- Parish & School Fun Day in November.
- Coming up with a commemorative photo book; etc.

**Lenten Weekly Spiritual Formation**

Our Diocese, through our parish, is offering a spiritual formation program every Friday at 5 pm during Lent. It uses the gospel reading of the following Sunday as material for prayerful reflection. Coming and praying together can be a grace-filled exercise. We will end with Stations of the Cross.

**Calling for More Liturgical Volunteers**

Our parish is still in need of more volunteers to take on the following roles at our liturgical celebrations:

- Commentators
- Acolytes
- Lectors or Readers
- Collectors
- Mass Servers
- Choir members

**Please approach Father Archie.**

**OLC NOTICES**

As part of our Lenten journey, we had a rice day, where students gave up treats in their lunch boxes for one day and had a simple bowl of rice for lunch. This was a way for us to raise money for Project Compassion and to build awareness and empathy for those who do not have as much to eat as we take for granted. 154 students and many teachers participated in this experience.

Students in Years 4-6 went to the Geographe Leisure Centre for their Swimming Carnival on Thursday.

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy) assessments started this week for Year 3 and 5 students. Assessments are in the areas of Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy. Most of the assessments are completed on devices.

NAPLAN is one source of information, and is part of a range of assessments, work samples and observations as well as teacher professional judgement that help us to have a clear understanding of the learning needs of our students.



**DIOCESAN NOTICES**

**Episcopal Ordination Anniversary Mass**

Bishop George Kolodziej SDS DD will be celebrating his Episcopal Ordination Anniversary Mass on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 9.30am at St Patrick’s

Cathedral. You are very welcome to celebrate his wonderful first year in the life of the Bunbury Diocese. A morning tea will follow.

**Launching the 1st of August Diocesan Assembly**

At the Episcopal Anniversary Mass on the 19th of March, Bishop George will formally launch the Call to the Diocesan Assembly to be held on the 1st of August. Please keep posted for more details.

**COMMUNITY BILLBOARD**



At Sweet Stylin we style, design and create couture cakes & sweets for any Special Occasion: cupcakes, naked cakes, Macarons, donuts, and dessert bars. 0411 438 639 / eatcake@sweetstylin.com.au or visit our Website: sweetsylin.com.au  
WEDDINGS PARTIES EVENTS



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**CHURCH COLLECTION  
7th Feb—8th March 2026**

Mass Collections : \$ 893.45  
Direct Deposit : \$ 100; \$20; \$10  
EFTPOS : \$ 225.00  
10-c Recycling : \$ 26.60

A Tap & Donate machine is located in the foyer for the convenience of parishioners and visitors who may prefer to use the EFTPOS Machine.

If you wish to make a DONATION, please deposit it directly to our Parish Bank Account:  
BSB: 086-006 ACCT: 848054647

**Acct. Name: The Roman Catholic Bishop of Bunbury Dunsborough Parish**

Parish Bulletin Editorial Staff:  
Jude Kelly, Joan Smurthwaite, Fr. Archie



**FREE CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- free pregnancy tests
- emotional support: before, during and after pregnancy
- material assistance: maternity clothing, baby clothing, baby items (nappies & toiletries, prams, cots etc.)
- pre-natal and post-natal information
- assistance with access to other resources/services

**PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE BUNBURY**

9792 4759  
pregnant@westnet.com.au  
151 Spencer Street, South Bunbury  
Hours: 11am-5pm Tuesdays & Thursdays or by appointment



**OLOTSC Parish supports Pregnancy Assistance Bunbury.**

**Please share the information above and donate any items for babies. God bless!**