



**SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Mothering Sunday**

***Let us watch Songs of Praise together.  
on the ABC and then set the table  
for our shared meal.***

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

**Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.** Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.



Let us prepare our table with thanksgiving and prayer as we worship during the Lenten Season, define the occasion by adding something special to our table. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**

Isn't it frustrating when someone doesn't believe you? When people choose not to believe, it is a kind of blindness especially when the evidence is right in front of them. Spiritual blindness is like a darkness people choose to live in. Jesus literally says that he is that light in this darkness. This spiritual light cuts right through unbelief and the rituals and the rules we all get tangled up in.



***opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.***

*Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray:*  
**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Here, and throughout the world, We adore you O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

**Bless this food, both physical and spiritual. Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

**A reading from the first book of Samuel Chapter 16, verses 1-13**

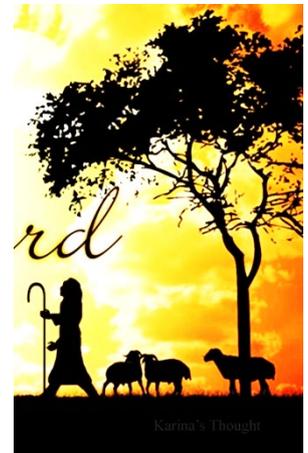
The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."



Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.  
 2 He will make me lie down in green pastures:  
 and lead me beside still waters.  
 3 He will refresh my soul:  
 and guide me in right pathways or his name's sake.  
 4 Though walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
 I will fear no evil: for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.  
 5 You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me:  
 you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.  
 6 Surely your goodness and loving-kindness  
 will follow me all the days of my life:  
 and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



### A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians Chapter 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.



Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John Chapter 9:1-41

#### Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept



asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for him-self." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Sentence:**

I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life'. John 8:12

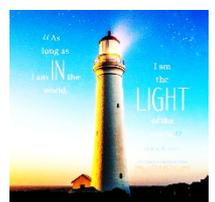
*Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.*

**As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**

**For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light-**

Sometimes there is no explanation for extraordinary events in our lives. The blind man said, "It happened, and that's all I know, but it has changed my life for the better."

Jesus is literally the phenomenon that transforms lives. To those who accept His work



He opens their eyes to a new world of Spiritual understanding. The religious leaders didn't get it. He didn't fit in their religious and theological box then, and He still doesn't fit in it now. If we receive what He desires to give us then expect the unexpected. And He turns us into His light in this world today.

**Prayer-time** Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; for those affected by natural disasters, war and conflict; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith. We pray for a peaceful resolution to the escalating conflict in the Middle East that is now affecting many countries.

*God of mercy, look with compassion on all who are affected by the present conflict. Grant insight to hardened hearts, comfort to the fearful, protection to those in danger, and hope to those who are despairing. Encourage all leaders to come together for the common good, working towards a peaceful resolution that does not follow individual agendas. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer.**



we continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer Trish, :Ann W, Joy I, David B, Cathy, Jo, Lorraine, Sue, Margaret P, Trish S Kay & Chris DeVries Lynn H, Jean T, Sue and family, Stephen, Anne, Ken, Neville B, Lisa W, Jan Y, Michael, Andrew, Colin C, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, Barbara A, Jo M, Sue Mc, Griselda, Patrusca, Lorraine, Rachel, Steve, Ebony, Nicole, David, Takoohi , Glenda, Margaret, Wendy, Gweneth, Jo and Ginne , Matthew, Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Georgia, Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, Jan, Jac B; Eileen, Ursula P, Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank G, Emily and her family; Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud

**Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father .....**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God,  
in order that we children of earth might discern good from evil  
you sent your Son to be the light of the world:  
as the light of Christ shines upon us,  
may we learn what pleases you,  
and live in truth and goodness;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit be amongst us and remain with us  
always. Amen.**

### **Intentional connection beyond your home**

After our Table Service, make contact with family and friends who may be alone or who you may not have talked with for a while. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you



should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, or hope you are keeping well, or I was just thinking of you and decided to call.