WELCOME

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC PARISH — 15 MARCH 2026

"The Love of Christ must come before all else." (Rule of St Benedict)

WEEKLY SERVICES

Mass Times:
Mon: Communion - Service @7am **(after the service, the church will be closed)**
Wed/Fri: 7am
Tues/Thurs: 9am
Sat: 7.30am & Vigil 6pm
Sun: 7.30am, 9.30am & 6pm

HOLY HOUR (STARTS WITH MASS)
FRIDAYS @7AM

Reconciliation:
Sat: **4.30PM - 5.30PM**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Thursday: 9.30am—5pm
Friday: 8am—5pm

Rosary Groups:
Tue: 9.30am, Wed/Fri: 7.30am
Cenacle: Thurs: 9.30am

Prayer Group:
Mary Mother of Sorrows: Meetings on Thursdays @1pm **(except school holidays)**

Catholic Women's League (CWL)
Meet the 2nd Tuesday of the Month in the Fr Albert Lynch Room **@10am, gathering @9.45am**

Baptisms: By appointment

Marriages: By appointment

Parish Office:
115 Ardross Street, Ardross WA 6153
PO Box 1831, Applecross WA 6953
Tel: 08 9364 1120
Website: www.stbenedicts.net.au
Office Hours: 10am—4pm (Tue-Fri)
Admin Officer: Stefani Chen
E (main): applecross@perthcatholic.org.au
Admin Assistant: Maribel Villegas (Thur: 9am-3pm)
E (office): office.applecross@perthcatholic.org.au
Parish Priest: Fr Nelson Po
E (Fr Nelson): nelson.po@perthcatholic.org.au

BENEDICTCARE COORDINATORS:
Head Coordinator: Carmel Tick - 0488 100 928
New Parishioners: Ruth Thorn
Home Help: Carmel Tick
Handyman/Gardening: Louis Bove
Visiting: Meagan Xanthis
Transport: Carmel Tick
Emergency Meals: Meagan Xanthis

PARISH INCLUSIVITY COORDINATOR:
Bev Piche — 0467 054 168

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

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.

The story of the man born blind is a perfect choice for the Lenten season. During this season we are invited once again to open our eyes to Jesus; to step out of darkness and into the light; to look towards the future with hope and not despair. When we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at the Easter vigil, we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World into our lives. This annual call to turn away from darkness and walk in the light is a powerful and poetic call to focus our lives on the way of Jesus.

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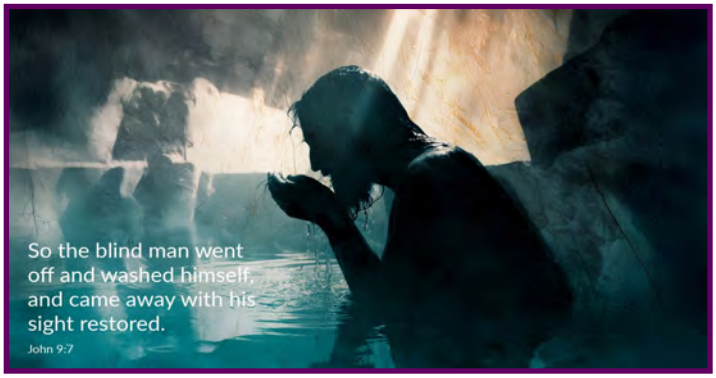

PREP COORDINATOR: Maureen Bright
Email: office.applecross@perthcatholic.org.au

SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR: Rosa Ranieri
Email: stbenedicts.sacraments@gmail.com

Pastoral Care: Yunita Lay
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PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS:
Marina Ciccarelli &
Phil Trueman.

Email contact:
applecross.safeguarding@gmail.com

PARISH NOTICES

EVENTS

- 14 MAR — SCHOOL COMMUNITY MASS @6PM, FOLLOWED BY SUPPER (*BRING A PLATE TO SHARE*)
- 16, 23 & 30 MAR, 6, 13 & 20 APR, 4 MAY — ALPHA AT ALBERT LYNCH ROOM, EVERY MONDAY @9AM-10.30AM
- **18 MAR — LENTEN RECONCILIATION (1ST RITE) @7PM**
- 20 & 27 MAR — STATIONS OF THE CROSS @7PM
- 29 MAR — PARISH MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS *(PLEASE BRING A PLATE)*
- **2-5 APRIL — HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE (SEE BELOW)**

HOLY WEEK (EASTER) TIMETABLE 2026:

Lenten Reconciliation: 18 March (1st Rite): @7pm

Holy Thursday 2 April: Mass @7pm

Good Friday 3 April:
Stations of the Cross @10.30am
Passion of the Lord @3pm

Easter Vigil 4 April: Mass @7pm
(Followed by Adoration until 10.30pm)

Easter Sunday 5 April:
Masses @7.30am, @9.30am & @6pm

Easter Monday 6 April:
Communion Service @7.30am (**no Mass**)

YOUTH CORNER

Youth Mass — 11 April 2026 @6pm

Good Friday:
Stations of the Cross — 3 April @10.30am

World Day of Prayer 6 March - *'I will give you rest: Come' - Matthew 11:28-30*

A thank you to all who answered the call to **"Come!"** and joined with their prayers in our local interdenominational prayer service focused on **Nigeria,** here at St Benedict's. As well as a big thank you to **Cornelius Itotoh**, supported by F**ranca**, we extend our thanks to all who contributed to the conduct of the service, plus welcoming, and catering for the morning tea.
Thank you to all 71 attendees for your prayers and your contribution of **$810** towards the aid that the Bible Society extends to the needy in Nigeria. Adele Parsons - Convenor

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for **LifeLink 2025** raised a total of **$770,204**. Our parish contributed **$75,978** towards this amount. Well Done. The Archbishop personally thanks all parishioners for supporting this appeal.

ALARM BELLS!!! The Vinnies food pantry is running out of food. There has been a big increased in the demand for food for the homeless and families suffering from the cost of living crisis. We would be grateful to receive donations of perishables such as rice(1kg), tea bags, coffee, milk, cereal, baked beans, spaghetti tins, tinned fruit, pasta sauces, Vegemite, jam, noodles, and canned meat.

- The Applecross conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

NEW COLLETION BAGS – WILL START NEXT WEEKEND
We now have 20 brand new collection bags with a stick at both ends, 10 red ones for the first collection and 10 blue ones for the second collection. The new bags will be put at the end of the designated pews by the collectors at the start of the mass, the same as the previous collection baskets, not on the floor.
At the offering time, the bags will be passed on as usual. The collectors then will collect them. They will not pour the money but will fold each of the bags and put into the big baskets,

First Sunday of Lent: 14-15 March 2026

Caritas AUSTRALIA | PROJECT COMPASSION

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

Please donate today.
You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.
Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413
Thank you for standing with us,
as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

ONLY ONE ENVELOPE FOR THE SIX WEEK LENT PERIOD

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please keep the following people in your prayers:
Myrtle Nimmo, Helen Overman, Shalini Saldanha, Ng Choon Bee, Liesel Beukes, Helen Teo, Thomas McGuire Marris, Lorraine Healey, Kamani Jayaratne, Sue Miguel, Harsono Setiawan, Steven Robertson, Lisa Bailey, Lenna Hosseini, Frank Ranieri, Judith Chan, Grisel Noronha and all others who are not included in this list. *Thank you.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR RECENTLY DECEASED: -

ANNIVERSARIES:

Giuseppe Mattarocchia, John Ogilvie, Victor Harris, Maria Sansalone, Basil Rigg, Jessie McCormack, Dorothy Quinn, Florence Marshall, Maurice Arnold, Giuseppe Caruso and all deceased benefactors of the parish and all departed family and friends. *Thank you.*

SAFEGUARDING INDUCTION TRAINING for ALL Parishes and Church Workers paid or unpaid — LEVEL 1 (New requirements & Personal Declaration Form is to be completed)

The Safeguarding Level 1 Induction is now available as **a Self-Paced Online Learning Module**. This format offers greater flexibility and an easier, user-friendly experience. To complete the Safeguarding Level 1 Induction, please follow these steps:

- Visit our **safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au/training/** to check out the Induction.
- Click on "Safeguarding Level 1 – Induction ONLINE Training".
- Watch the Presentation Video.
- Proceed to Step 2 to register personal details and complete the quiz.

The Safeguarding Office will notify the Parish/Agency/Organisation of the attendance record.

SAFEGUARDING LEVEL 1 INDUCTION TRAINING (in person)

2026 Dates coming soon.

To register **https://safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au/training/#induction**.

Further info: **safeguarding@perthcatholic.org.au** or 08 9221 7762.

Thank you to all who have already completed the course and submitted their personal declaration forms to comply with the new Archdiocese Directives regarding Safeguarding.

Pilgrimage of Mission & Hope!

800yrs Death Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi Italy

Join **Mon Michael Keating** to deepen your faith as we travel to Italy from **13th May to 22nd May 2026 (See Notice Board).**

For the itinerary and booking form, please **call us Anawim Journeys on 0402 290 827 (Veronica) or 0433 771 979 (Sheila).** You can also email us at **mail@anawimjourneys.com**

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Presence

The peace of God is the treasure of treasures, "the pearl of great price" – Lord, may I experience this peace right now, in Your holy presence.

Freedom

I try to let go of concerns and worries
that may be dragging me down at this present moment.
I place any concerns I have in God's hands
– at least for these few minutes of prayer.

Consciousness

I remind myself that I am in the presence of the Lord.
I will take refuge in His loving heart.
He is my strength in times of weakness.
He is my comforter in times of sorrow.

Inspiration

We get little cameo pictures of Jesus and how he dealt so kindly with those who approached him. It's often fascinating to contrast his kindness with how the Pharisees acted in similar circumstances when they encountered people weighed down by misfortune. Those who came to Jesus with simplicity and no hidden agendas were treated with wonderful kindness and respect. The man born blind from birth saw that salvation and deliverance had been given to him that day, and he had the graciousness to throw himself down before the Lord and worship him.

Conversation

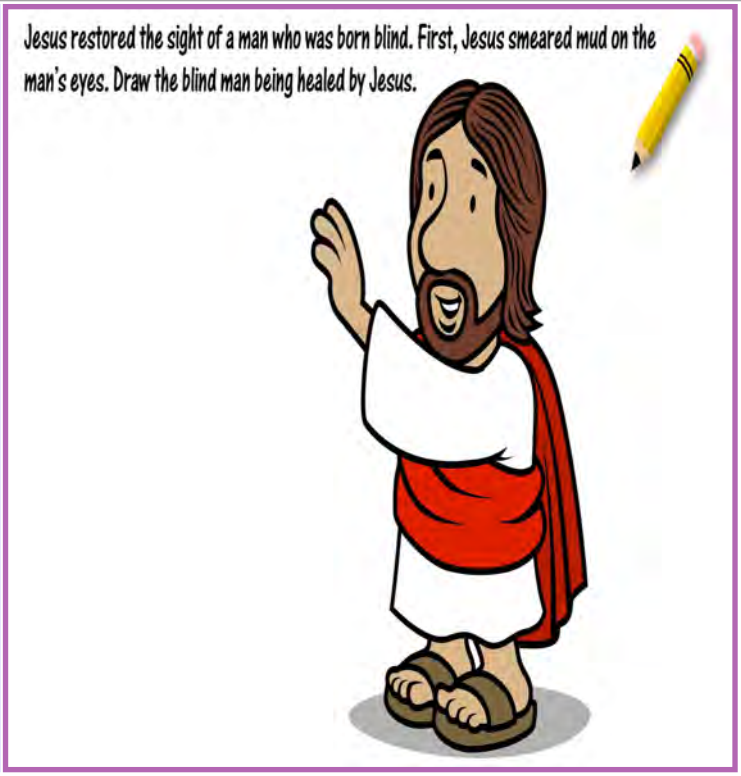
Lord, You have engraved my name
on the palm of Your hand.
Even if others forget me,
You never will.

Conclusion

Filled with the loving presence of God,
I ask Him to bless me and guide my steps
as I go to do His work in my daily life.

Amen

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Church/School Parking – Reminder

Please park on the allotted bays in the church carpark and in the school carpark at Alness Street. **Do not park on the neighbouring residents' lawns across the road from the church & the church's lawns.** *Thank you.*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 5th Sunday of Lent, Yr A

1st: Ezek 37: 12-14 **Ps:** 129

2nd: Rom 8: 8-11 **Gospel:** Jn 11: 1-45

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Isaiah 66:10-11*

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading *1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13*

A reading from the first book of Samuel

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.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 22 R. v.1*

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

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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.)
4. 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*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.*

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 *(Shorter form)* *John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.

Communion Antiphon *Cf John 9:11,38*

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE — 21 & 22 MARCH 2026

	SAT 6PM	SUN 7.30AM	SUN 9.30AM	SUN 6PM
ACOLYTE	MIKE TARANTO	BARRY FARRELL	DENIS RIGG	KEN BOWNES
ALTAR SERVERS	HAILEY CORREIA JACKSON HANDCOCK DHIVYEN MANNAR JACOB CHEN	JERARD, JONAH & JORDAN VINCENT	AMANDA CHIA CHARMAINE VOGLER MASON SIA	TAYAHNA PRETORIUS OLIVER & JACOB WONG
COMMENTATORS	MILDRED REGO	MARIA ARANDA	MARINA CICCARELLI	MAUREEN BRIGHT
COLLECTORS	ANTONIO VARNAKULASINGHAM ELIZABETH YUSTIRA	ADRIAN DARGIE	TERRY BOLAND ROGER BUNN	JOE CINANNI MARIA NARDONE GRAHAM KNIGHT
READERS	ELIZABETH YUSTIRA ROSA WEST	MARK DE CRUZ LORNA D'SOUZA	PAUL SEARSON PAUL MENEZES	JACKIE WONG ANDREA D'SOUZA
EMOHC	AYLMYR SEQUEIRA STEFANI CHEN ANNE ANDRIANI EILEEN SELVARATNAM	MONICA ANDERSON ANGELA SCOTT JACQUIE HERON	MELISSA TROLIO LILI ORIFICI MARGARET HANDYSIDE VOLUNTEER NEEDED	LINDA ROBERTSON YULIANA VAN DER BURG MARIA LISA HILL JILL NORTON

ALTAR SOCIETY: NO FLOWERS	PILGRIM STATUE: ANNE ANDRIANI
COUNTERS: BARRY FARRELL, KEVIN WRINGE & HELEN VESTER	CHILDREN'S LITURGY: —