

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. [John 9:35-38](#)

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John's Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus' teaching from the previous chapter: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" ([John 8:12](#)). Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. This story is quite long and detailed. The details it includes makes it much more than a miracle. It is also a dramatic story revealing both the consequences of rejecting Jesus, as well as the blessings received by one who turns to Jesus in faith.

We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. In part, this came from a misreading of [Exodus 20:5-6](#) in which God said that He inflicts punishment "on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation." Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man's blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For this reason, we should understand that we are all "blind" in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are, therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight.

The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus' initiative. This shows that God's healing action in our lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story.

After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man's parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus.

The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God's saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others.

Reflect, today, upon the two paths this sign from Heaven had on those present to this miracle. You, too, are present to this miracle through your reading of it. How will you respond? Will you imitate the Pharisees and discount the deep spiritual truths this action conveys? Or will you open yourself to the transforming power of this healing? Commit yourself to the path of this blind man. Say to our Lord, "I do believe, Lord." Apply those words to every action of Jesus in your life and allow that faith to lead you into worship of Him Who is the Light of the World.

Jesus, Light of the World, You came to dispel the darkness caused by original sin. You came to heal our blindness and open the eyes of our souls to Your true Light. Please open my eyes so that I may see, and give me the courage I need to profess my faith in You and worship You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

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Readings Fifth Sunday of Lent 26 March 2023
Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 129; Romans 8:8-11;
John 11:1-45



EASTER TRIDUUM

GUARDIAN ANGELS & MARY IMMACULATE

If you wish to be a minister at the above Masses, please print your name and phone number on the relevant sheet/s located at the back of the Church.

NB – you must commit to attend the practice session, (approximately 30 minutes), at the time listed on the sheets.

Lenten Program

Come and join us for an opportunity to reflect on ourselves, our community and our Church as we prepare this Lent for Easter

Every Tuesday for 6 weeks starting 28 February
9.30 am Mary Immaculate Church meeting room
tea & coffee available

It will be conducted by

Yuri Koszarycz

a long serving parishioner and
a teacher of Theology at ACU for 30 years

LENTEN SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

During Lent this year the following devotional activities are available to enrich your Lenten preparation for Easter.

EVERY TUESDAY to WEDNESDAY:

GUARDIAN ANGELS CHURCH

1.00 pm Tuesday—1.00pm Wednesday: 24 Hour Vigil Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, silent prayer

12.20pm Wednesday: Rosary & Confession

12.50pm Wednesday: Benediction

EVERY THURSDAY: MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH

7.45am—8.45am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, silent prayer & Benediction

9.00am: Holy Mass

6.00pm: Stations of the Cross

EVERY FRIDAY: GUARDIAN ANGELS CHURCH

11.30am—12.30pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, silent prayer, Divine Mercy Chapel, Stations of the Cross with scriptural meditations.

12.30pm: Holy Mass

Vietnamese Mass

Fr John will be celebrating a Vietnamese Mass on the 1st Sunday of **each** month
2.00pm at Mary Immaculate Church



Fourth Sunday of Lent 18 & 19 March



Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With the support of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Thu can now earn extra income and care for his wife as she recovers from a stroke.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



STOPLINE receives information about suspected abuse,
(information can be provided anonymously)
misconduct & serious policy breaches by Archdiocesan clergy, employees or volunteers.

PHONE: 1300 304 550 EMAIL: aob@stopline.com.au

ONLINE: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)

Kerri Kleidon

Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy. We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all our employees and volunteers and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.



RECENTLY DECEASED



MOYA CASSELL

By request, the names of our sick and deceased family and friends will be recorded in these books in each church

Please pray for all whose names are recorded in the Books of Remembrance

SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH 20 March

This year we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph on 20 March. While we know that Joseph was Mary's husband and the earthly father of Jesus, in reality we have very little historical information about him. Traditionally he is known for being a carpenter and his other feast is 1st May, St. Joseph the Worker. St Joseph was a man of courage, conviction and commitment. He was a man of hope and faith who trusted in God who called him personally by his name. He didn't simply react; he responded faithfully to situations as they arose and faced them courageously out of concern for Mary and Jesus.

NEW SCP ENVELOPES

for the Plan Giving Program starting on the 1/2 April 2023 will be available from the narthex of each church the weekend of the 25/26 March 2023.



A huge thank you to everyone who is currently donating to the plan giving program.

If you would like to ...

1. be part of the Plan Giving Program
2. would like to change from envelopes and donate via credit card or direct debit or
3. any concerns

Please contact the office and speak with our Finance Officer: Therese, who will be more than happy to help all parishioners, thank you.



2023 First Holy Communion Sacramental Program

The registration for the Sacramental Program for
First Holy Communion

is **now** open.

First Holy Communion is the second step in your child's sacramental journey.

The registration is open from 8 March to 17 April.

It is available to all children who have completed their Confirmation and are in Year 4 and above (9 years and older). The program runs throughout Term 2 of this school year.

This year the program of First Holy Communion is linked to the Sacramental Program of Reconciliation which will take place later this year.

Registering for First Holy Communion will automatically mean your child is enrolled into the First Reconciliation program as well. The cost of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation will be combined as a single payment.

The link for the online registration form is:

<https://scp.org.au/first-eucharist/2023-sacrament-of-first-holy-communion/>

or you can visit our webpage to access the form.

If you have any queries please contact
Lisa Perkins on 5510 2222 ext 3 or
Email: sacramental@scp.org.au

Every Saturday our walking group meets at St Joseph the Worker, Labrador at 6.00am Contact Janece 0408 763 772

St Joseph the Worker Church

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Mass

8.00am

Weekday Masses

Monday & Wednesday 7.00am

1st Wednesday 7.00pm

1st Saturday 9.00am

Rosary

Monday & Wednesday 6.00am

1st Wednesday 6.00pm

1st Saturday 8.30am

Novena

Wednesday 6.00pm

Guardian Angels Church

99 Scarborough Street, Southport

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Reconciliation Saturday 4.30pm

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30pm

Sunday 7.00am & 9.00am

Korean Mass

Sunday 3.30pm

한인미사 일요일 오후 3시 30분

Filipino Mass

1st Sunday 12.00pm

Prayer & Adoration

Wednesday 12.00pm

Rosary & Mass

Friday 12.00pm



Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm

Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am

Vietnamese Mass

1st Sunday 2.00pm

Adoration & Rosary

Tuesday & Thursday 7.45am

Gold Coast University Hospital

Rosary & Mass

Friday 10.00am

PARISH CONTACTS

Ph 07 5510 2222

<https://scp.org.au>

Parish office Ashmore

Tuesday -Thursday 9.00am-3.00pm
31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore, 4214

Parish office Southport & Gift Shop

Monday - Friday 9.00am-4.30pm
115 Scarborough Street, Southport, 4215

Office Support

Catherine Francis E: parish@scp.org.au

Finance Officer

Therese Rogers E: accounts@scp.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator

Lisa Perkins E: sacramental@scp.org.au

Associate Pastor

Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen (Hospital Chaplaincy)

Associate Pastor

Fr Marce Singson

Parish Priest

Fr Gerard McMorrow PP