

Catholic Parish of the Nambucca Valley

Corpus Christi, Bowraville

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Nambucca Heads

St. Patrick's Macksville

FOURTH SUNDAY OF
THE LENT
YEAR A
15TH MARCH 2026



Administrator: Fr. Peter Rebello OCD

PARISH OFFICE: 78 Wallace St(PO Box 38) Macksville 2447 Phone: 0265681107

Office Hours: Tue, Wed & Thursday's 8:30 am to 4:00pm. Email: nvparish@lismore.catholic.org.au

Website: www.nvparish.org.au

Urgent Matters: 0481703122



First Reading

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

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 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

Psalm 22(23)

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

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

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

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.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

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

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.

Learning to see as God sees

When Jesus says he is the light of the world what do we make of it? Have we ever experienced this light? Or do we live somewhere between the darkness and the promise of it, perhaps too caught up in the light of our phones to see the people around us? In the gospel Jesus sees a man born blind, and the disciples ask whether it was his sin or his parents that caused it? Neither he replies. Beyond the social shaming Jesus sees the man himself, one in whom we'll behold the glory of God. Our coming to sight doesn't always happen instantly, as the man reveals, but step by step. It begins when Jesus sees him and the man goes and bathes in the pool as Jesus had said; trusting in him he receives his sight. However, now he's doubted by his friends, abandoned by his parents, and three times he's questioned by the Pharisees, who determine Jesus is a sinner, until finally they drive the man out of the synagogue – and through it all he holds his nerve and simply tells them what he knows, what Jesus has done: he bears extraordinary witness to him. Hearing what's happened Jesus comes looking for him and invites him to take a further step into the light. When he says yes, and worships him, he affirms that it's Jesus alone who gives real meaning to our lives, that he is our life. In doing so the man reveals what we long for but are often uncertain about. Are we able to see him in those we are close to, or in the dark moments of our lives, let alone in the outcast and the stranger? As one young man did when he began leaving food with homeless people in a nearby street, until one evening one of them said to him, 'talk to us, don't just feed us like dogs. He then realised they were human too; that they had something to give him, and it changed his life: in their company he came to know Jesus. Finally, Jesus speaks with the Pharisees of his coming into the world to enable us to choose. Do we begin to open our lives to his light – to the glory of God – or hold fast to what we've known, blinded by our reluctance to see? Jesus doesn't condemn the Pharisees but reveals to them their blindness, as he does with us. The first two readings speak of a God who 'looks at the heart' not simply our self-presentation. This is what informs God's way in directing Samuel's choice of a king. And like the prophet, we have to learn to see as God sees. While Paul speaks of discovering 'what the Lord wants of you' by facing into the darkneses of our lives and letting them be illuminated by the light of Christ. As those about to be baptised at Easter reveal to us, this transformation is at the heart of Lent. Damian Coleridge © Majellan Media 2026

Easter Mass timings 2026

Holy Thursday -**6pm Mass** at NH

Good Friday **9 am** stations of the cross at Bowraville and 3pm at NH **Passion of the lord**

Easter Vigil **6:30 pm** at NH

Easter Sunday masses

7:00 Am at NH, **8:15** at Macksville , and **9:30** at Bowraville

11th of April we will be celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday adoration at 4pm recitation of divine mercy chaplet and followed by Mass at 5pm

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Peter Moroney , Pauline Baiker and Heather Aldridge

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Erne Thorne , Fr. Frank O'gorman

Pauline Welsh, Irene and Gordon, Irene Cooke
Lotti Latham, Mureen, and Eulilaha , Pod Clough, Trevor Latham

WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

Dianne Wills, Tammy Metz, John Logan, Ken Forrester, Peter
O'Connor

Mass Intention envelopes are located at the back of the Church

TUE 17 th March	2pm Mass at ST. Patrick School
WED 18 th March	No Mass
THU 19 th March	9:30 Am Mass in Macksville
FRI 20 th March	Station of the cross 9am Mass at 9:30 Nambucca
SAT 21 st March	4:30 pm Reconciliation 5pm Nambucca
SUN 22 nd March fifth Sunday of lent	8Am Mass in Macksville 9:30 am in Bowraville