

ST PATRICK'S, ST JOHN VIANNEY'S,

STELLA MARIS & ST JOSEPH'S

Partnered Parishes of Mentone-Parkdale and Ricketts Point (Beaumaris & Black Rock)

4th SUNDAY of LENT - 15th March 2026

St Patrick's, 10 Rogers St, Mentone

St John Vianney's, Cnr Warren Rd & Brisbane Tce, Parkdale

Stella Maris, 2 Charlotte Rd, Beaumaris

St Joseph's, 542 Balcombe Rd, Black Rock

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm (*Mentone*)

Sunday: 8:00am (*Black Rock*)

Sunday: 9:00am (*Parkdale*)

Sunday: 10:30am (*Beaumaris*)

Sunday: 11:00am (*Mentone*)

Sunday: 5:00pm (*Mentone*)

'I am the Light of the World' (Jn 9:5)

This proclamation of Jesus in today's gospel of the healing of the blind man helps us reflect on the nature of faith. When a landscape is illumined by the sun, the 'natural' light of the world, we are not in doubt about what is in front of us: we see the vista laid out before us.

It should be the same for those whose world is lit up by Jesus, Light of the World. **Faith in Christ and his teachings is a form of seeing, of knowledge:** it does not say, 'These things *are probably true*' or 'I *hope* these things are true', but simply, 'These things *are true*'. Jesus tells his disciples, 'You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' (Jn 8:32)

Yet faith is an unusual form of knowledge. On a supernatural divine level, our minds are illumined by God, First Truth and Source of all truth; yet on a natural, merely human level we live our faith in various degrees of darkness and obscurity. Faith is (in a sense) like Christ himself – both fully divine and fully human, in mysterious union. Thus:

1. Faith depends fully on divine **grace**; yet believing is an act of the **human mind and free will** - moved by grace, the will commands the mind to assent to God's truth.
2. Faith steps beyond natural reason to base itself on **divine authority**: we believe '*because God has said it*'; yet it is in full **harmony with reason**, with human reason pointing the way by evidence, prompting us to faith.
3. Faith, since it bases its assent on God's truthfulness,

affirms his truth with **fully certain** conviction; yet on this earth the human mind still only sees '**through a glass, darkly**'. (1 Cor 13:12)

The human obscurity of faith can tempt us to take a step back from this faith by which we are saved, and from the full conviction to which God calls us. For example, a common approach is, 'I believe in Christ's teachings... but people of other religions also have their beliefs. This is the way that I was brought up, but who knows in the end? It's all the same anyway.'

This is a form of the relativism that so pervades our society, claiming that 'truth is relative to our culture, our background – there is no absolute truth true for all human beings.' In the end relativism is irrational, since logically, the same thing cannot really be both true and false (supposedly 'true for me', but 'false for you'). And taken to religion, it retreats from our faith in the words of Jesus, Son of God: '**I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.**' (Jn 14:6)

The grain of truth in relativism is that God has scattered seeds of truth throughout the world, including in the various religions. Every individual is channelled by their background to have certain valid insights into various aspects of universal truth, and the diverse valid insights complement each other, rather than contradict; thus, we can all learn from each other. On the other hand, our backgrounds can also *limit* our vision, and lead to false beliefs contradicting reality. This is not *[continued p. 4]*

CHANGE IN SCHEDULE — Stations of the Cross at Stella Maris only, this Friday 20th March at 7:00 pm. (No Stations at St Patrick's this week. Then Friday 27 March, 7 pm, Stations at both Mentone and Beaumaris.)

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Justin Ford **Assistant Priest:** Rev Fr Joseph Nguyen

Presbytery: 10 Rogers St, Mentone 3194 **Office:** 3 Mitchell St, Mentone 3194 **Office hours:** 9am-5pm (Mon, Tues and Thurs)

Phone: 9583 2103 **Email:** mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au **Website:** www.sspjv.org

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon 16 March	11:00am (<i>Mentone</i>)
Tue 17 March	Solemnity: St Patrick 9:15am (<i>Mentone</i>) (<i>School Mass</i>)
Wed 18 March	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Thu 19 March	Solemnity: St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9:15am (<i>Mentone</i>) 9:15am (<i>Beaumaris</i>) (<i>Class Mass</i>)
Fri 20 March	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Sat 21 March	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Beaumaris</i>)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Patrick's Mentone every Friday following 9:15am Mass until 4:30 Benediction.

Exposition at Stella Maris Beaumaris every Saturday 9:45-10:15am.

RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION

Wednesdays following 9:15am Mass (*Mentone*),
Saturdays following 9:15am Mass (*Mentone & Beaumaris*) and at 5:15pm (*Mentone*).

Baptisms:

For bookings and enquiries please phone the Parish Office 9583 2103 or email -

mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au

For Baptism & other sacraments for older children (7 & over) please email - baysideatrium@gmail.com

Recently Deceased:

Colleen Young, Mary Sillekens, Giovanni Pagano

Anniversaries: Marina Almeida, Dr Laszlo Valkanyi, Magda Valkanyi, Marta Egyed, Eun-Hae (Christina) Kim, Ally Hayes, Orazio Ansaldo, Jack Lynch, Doris Lynch

We pray for those who are sick: Fr James Grant, Aliai Coyle-Madut, Max Byers, Jim Lacey, Janis Williams, Francis Archer, Nick Bond, Ching Price, Alan Laver, Michael Papworth, Mirella Townsend, Florence Dunn, Peter & Kaye McCall, Albert Ricardo

Today, the 4th Sunday of Lent is Lactare Sunday, 'Rejoicing' Sunday, when in the midst of our Lenten penances we anticipate the joy of Easter. The liturgical books suggest the possibility of rose-coloured vestments in place of violet.

BANKING DETAILS For direct credit to Parish accounts:

Presbytery:	083347 6808 76937
Mentone-Parkdale - Church:	083347 6815 62913
Nazareth Parish - Church:	083347 6864 78067

ROSTERS 21/22 March

St Patrick's - Mentone

6:00pm	Commentator/Reader	J Dillon
	Extraordinary Minister	J Stoppa
11:00am	Commentator/Reader	L Freeman
	Extraordinary Minister	A Earle
5:00pm	Commentator/Reader	J Hughes
	Extraordinary Minister	A Moore

St Joseph's - Black Rock

8:00am	Reader	J Short
	Commentator	T Warnock
	Extraordinary Minister	M Lindstrom

St John Vianney's - Parkdale

9:00am	Reader	G Shea
	Commentator	B Fitchet
	Extraordinary Minister	R Tregonning
	Extraordinary Minister to the Sick	N Perazzo
	Pilgrim Statue	G Cracknell

Stella Maris - Beaumaris

10:30am	Reader	G Lynch
	Commentator	M Chenhall
	Extraordinary Minister	F Winkelmann

Readings next week: 5th Sunday of Lent - Year A

Ezekiel: 37: 12-14

Romans: 8: 8-11

John: 11: 1-45

ST PATRICK'S MENTONE - PARISH GARDEN WORKING BEE

Volunteers are invited to join a team of other parishioners gardening at **St Patrick's Church, Presbytery & Parish Centre** on a regular monthly basis.

Day:- **2nd Saturday of each month.**

Time:- **10:00am to 12:00 noon.**

The next gardening busy bee will be on **11th April.**

All volunteers are warmly invited to lend a hand and share the fellowship. Although the primary focus will be weeding and mowing, other jobs will include hedges, gutters and other maintenance work as needed.

Just turn up at the Parish Centre with your hat and gardening gloves. Even an hour would be great. We will be happy to see you.

Any queries, please contact Jeremy or Richard via the Parish Office, 9583 2103.

Our Parishes are committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all persons. A copy of our Child Safety policy is on the noticeboard in our churches and on our website www.sspjv.org

You are reminded to keep watch over your personal belongings, and not to leave them unattended.

Invitation to the Easter Vigil

Don't miss the 'Easter Vigil in the Holy Night', the pinnacle of the Church's year.

The Church declares the Vigil to be 'the greatest and most noble of all solemnities'. (Roman Missal)

*Set aside the evening of **Saturday 4th April (8:00 pm, St Patrick's, Mentone)** for our Partnered Parishes celebration of this greatest of feasts, rejoicing in Christ's Resurrection.*

At Easter Vigils across Melbourne, catechumens and candidates will be received into the Catholic Church with the Sacraments of Initiation.

In our own celebration, Lydia Denker will be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, and receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion; we keep her in our prayers.

This is 'the Main Event' surpassing all others: if at all possible, you really should be there!

RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION TIMES FOR THE REST OF LENT

Please note the extra or changed times, printed in bold.

Wed 18 March	9:45am	St Patrick's, Mentone
Sat 21 March	9:45am	Stella Maris, Beaumaris
Sat 21 March	9:45am	St Patrick's, Mentone
Sat 21 March	5:15pm	St Patrick's, Mentone
Sun 22 March	9:00am	St Joseph's, Black Rock
Sun 22 March	10:00am	St John Vianney's, Parkdale
Wed 25 March	9:45am	St Patrick's, Mentone
Sat 28 March	9:45am	Stella Maris, Beaumaris
Sat 28 March	9:45am	St Patrick's, Mentone
Sat 28 March	5:15pm	St Patrick's, Mentone
Wed 1 April	9:45am	St Patrick's, Mentone
Sat 4 April	10:00am	Stella Maris, Beaumaris
Sat 4 April	10:00am	St Patrick's, Mentone



Fourth Sunday of Lent

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.

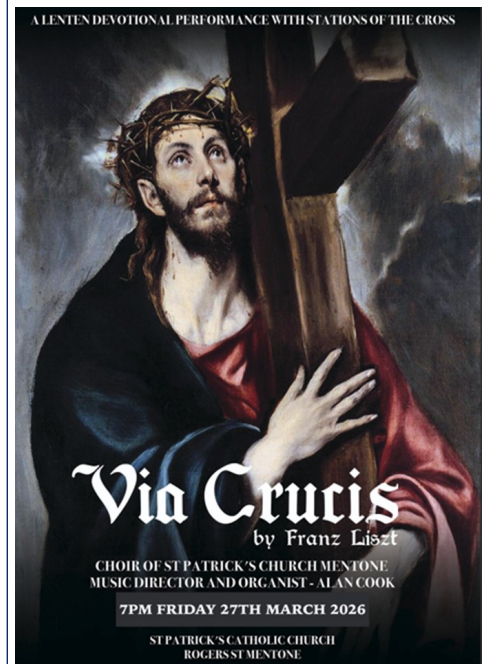


Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion through the envelopes, donation boxes, or by scanning the QR code. **Or online at:** www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Serra International Invitation: Mass & Dinner Meeting, 25 March 2026

The Serra Club of Melbourne invites parishioners to its next monthly Mass & Dinner Meeting on 25 March 2026 at St Catherine's Church, Moorabbin (6.15pm rosary, 6.30pm Mass, followed by dinner meeting) with our concelebrant and guest speaker being Fr Ken Barker, Founder of the Missionaries of God's Love. Please contact the Parish Office on 9583 2103 if you wish to attend or find out more about Serra International.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026 - MASS AND SERVICE TIMES

Palm Sunday, 29th March - normal Sunday Mass times

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday - no morning Mass

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thu 2nd April	Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:30 pm	Mentone & Black Rock
		<i>Adoration at both churches continues until 10:30 pm</i>		
Fri 3rd April	Good Friday	Stations of the Cross	11:00 am	Mentone & Beaumaris
		Celebration of the Passion of the Lord	3:00 pm	Mentone & Black Rock
Sat 4th April	Easter Vigil in the Holy Night		8:00 pm	Mentone
Sun 5th April	Easter Sunday morning - normal Sunday Mass times			
	<i>No 5:00 pm Mass at Mentone on Easter Sunday</i>			

HYMNS: **Mentone 6pm Vigil Saturday**

Parkdale 9am Sunday **Mentone 5pm Sunday**

Mass Setting: Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin

Entrance: 514 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Offertory: 289 From Ashes to the Living Font (v. 3 Sunday IV)

Communion: 540 Amazing Grace

Recessional: 543 Lord of Creation, To You Be All Praise

Mentone 11am Sunday

Mass Setting: Plainsong Mass (No Gloria)

Introit: Antiphon: *Laetare Jerusalem*

Entrance: 514 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Offertory: Motet: *Laudate Dominum* - K. Ett

Communion: Antiphon: *Lutum fecit ex sputo Dominus* (Cantor)

 Motet: *Ave Verum* - Mozart

 450 Amazing Grace

Recessional: 543 Lord of Creation, To You Be All Praise

Black Rock 8am Sunday

Entrance: 644 Christ, our Lord, the Prince of Ages

Offertory: 594 The Lord is my Light

Communion: 643 Christ is the World's Light

Recessional: 833 The Lord's my Shepherd

Beumaris 10:30am Sunday

Entrance: Christ be our Light

Offertory: The Lord is my Light

Communion: The Lord is my Shepherd

Recessional: Led by the Spirit

Today's readings: 4th Lent Yr A

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

 Ephesians: 5: 8-14

 John: 9: 1-41

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

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!

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Prayer for the Synod - Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.



Invitation -

**The Knights of the Southern Cross
Mentone Branch**

A representative will be speaking at the conclusion of each Mass at **St Patrick's** and **St John Vianney's** next weekend, **21st & 22nd March**. Interested men are invited to speak to a member at the church entrance after Mass and to attend our **next meeting** in St Patrick's Parish Centre on Monday **13th April at 7pm**.

[continued from p. 1 — 'I am the Light of the World']

valuable 'diversity' but something to be overcome.

But **how can we tell the difference between the true and the false? By 'light' – light of reason on the natural level, light of faith on the supernatural level.** To take a simple example, it is by the light of reason we see and know that 2 + 2 = 4. We do not 'humbly' say, 'I may be wrong, it's just my opinion'.

With more difficulty (especially given our fallen human nature) yet still by the same light, reason can come to know more complex truths, including in the end the reasons for accepting the reality of God, the authority of Christ and his Church. Helped also by illumination of the Holy Spirit, the various reasons prompt us to turn to God and base ourselves now, not on reason but on his truthfulness - freely making the assent of faith with the absolute conviction his truthfulness demands of us.

We can do this because Christ the Word, the Truth in person, has come to meet human beings in our search for truth, fulfilling all our partial truths. So by the light of faith, we have now been illumined to see Christ the Light of the World with supernatural vision. By God's mercy, we have been led to the 'lookout point' where we are truly able to see these things clearly.

This is both unmerited gift, and a stern responsibility to share further this saving truth and healing medicine, which we ourselves have received from others. No false 'humility' should lead us to deny seeing the truth we actually see. We are links in a chain, neither better nor worse than those who come before or after us in the chain of sharing truth.

Keeping our gaze fixed on Christ our Light drives away our blindness and illuminates our world, so that we can walk in the daylight of truth.