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## The Church of the Good Shepherd

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# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 22, 2020

## READINGS FOR – March 29<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ezekiel 37.12-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8.8-11

Gospel: John 11.1-45



Dear Parishioners,

In light of recent circumstances, Good Shepherd Parish is doing its best to accommodate and convenience its parishioners in these difficult times. In compliance with the most up-to-date safety guidelines regarding COVID-19, all weekend and weekday masses are cancelled until further notice. We all need to do our part as a community to slow the spread of the virus by limiting our activities and avoiding unnecessary outings. The situation is rapidly changing and we will always keep you in the loop. We hope that everyone stays safe and healthy during this time.

May God Bless You

Father Anthony

**The church will remain open for personal worship from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday during this challenging time.**



Cardinal's Message on COVID-19  
March 17, 2020

Please visit the Archdiocese Website for further information at  
[www.archtoronto.org/media-centre](http://www.archtoronto.org/media-centre)

## THE WORD THIS WEEK

*“He went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored”*

The Church's liturgy, on this the fourth Sunday of Lent, invites us to retrace one of the fundamental dynamics of our baptismal re-birth through the Gospel account of the healing of the 'man born blind'. It is the passage from the darkness of sin and error to the Light of God, who is the Risen Christ. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptized, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvelous story of the healing of the man born blind. The gospel calls us to move from our blindness to the revelation of God in Jesus. To believe is to come to the light, while to disbelieve is to be spiritually blind and walk in the darkness. The indestructible link with Christ, which is founded on His love and fidelity, is the 'new creation' that was given to us on the day of our Baptism. Through the Sacraments of Christian initiation we are more profoundly linked with Christ. This 'new creation' cannot bring fourth fruit in us without the full and renewed consent of our liberty that, in this earthly life, is expressed, reinvigorated and triumphs through the extraordinary events that Christ works in our lives. The blind man was interrogated by the world as to the precise details of his cure and with great simplicity he explained what happened to him: *'The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see.'* (Jn 9:11) The blind man received not only the gift of sight but also the gift of faith. May we like him experience this Lent as a true conversion of heart.



FOURTH SUNDAY IN  
LENT

Soon we will be launching our 2020 ShareLife Campaign. ShareLife is LIVING THE GOSPEL by respecting and caring for life at all stages! Today, we reflect on Living the Gospel in countless ways. You might not realize the impact of your donation to ShareLife. Your generosity supports over 40 agencies that help thousands of people in your community and beyond. As the 2020 Parish Campaign approaches, we thank you for your faithful support!

**ShareLife Sunday**  
**March 29, 2020**



**The Pope offered a prayer to the Virgin Mary in a video message to mark the Diocese of Rome's day of prayer and fasting for the coronavirus emergency.**

*O Mary,  
You always shine on our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,  
keeping your faith firm.  
You, Salvation of the Roman People,  
know what we need,  
and we are sure you will provide  
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and to feasting  
after this time of trial.  
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.  
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

## *"Finding Hope" In Difficult Times*

Hope means, "to desire something with confident expectation of its fulfillment." The state of Hopelessness has been aptly described as a type of "Hell on Earth," filled with endless despondency and despair. Watching the news can be extremely disheartening and scary, and it's important to find things that bring happiness during this time. Priority is your health. Contact your doctor if you're not feeling well. Understand the differences between coronavirus, the flu, and the common cold. Take care of yourself. But overall, don't lose sight of humanity and the joys of life during this difficult time.

### ***God is Our Source***

Paul wrote that when you place your trust in God, He will fill you with peace, joy, and assurance, (Rom 15:13). Throughout the Bible, God proves His faithfulness to His people by leading them safely through or delivering them from all their predicaments and troubles. He will never leave or forsake His people; His plans are to prosper, not to harm them (Jer. 29:11). People and things will always let us down. In Psa. 33:17, the horse, often used as a symbol of power, is declared a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength, it cannot save. In Jer. 17:5 God sternly warns against placing our dependency on man and calls it a curse. God wants us to trust in Him. Psa. 147:11 tells us that He is delighted when we put our trust in Him, and in Heb. 10:23 we are told to rely on Him for He who promised it is faithful.

"May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound and be overflowing with hope." (Rom 15:13)

WHERE THERE  
IS HOPE,  
THERE IS *faith.*  
WHERE THERE  
IS FAITH, *miracles*  
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