

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (A)

*Jesus gives sight to a man born blind, who comes to 'see' him for who he truly is. But Jesus' critics refuse to see as the man sees, and their attitudes reveal a more sinister kind of blindness.*

### The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you**

### Introduction

In today's Gospel we hear about the healing of a blind man. We hear the age old question asked: Does God send punishment because we have sinned?

Jesus is clear in his response. God does not punish, he loves and cares for everyone at all times.

As we celebrate this eucharist, we ask God to be with all of us in these difficult times. We pray that he will give us all the strength to endure.

## **Prayer of Confession**

There is much darkness in our world today. St John in his Gospel tells us that Jesus said: 'I am the light of the world.' Christ is indeed the light of the world, and the light of our lives. Let us reflect for a moment on how much we need his light for our own lives and for the world. *(pause)*

Let us now turn to Christ who is our light and our salvation:

Lord Jesus, you help us to walk in the light of faith.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you help us to walk in the light of hope.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you help us to walk in the light of love.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, + forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

## **The Collect**

Merciful Lord,

you know our struggle to serve you:

when sin spoils our lives

and overshadows our hearts,

come to our aid and turn us back to you again;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

*The light of Christ is in all that is good and true, and Christians are to live in this light.*

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

(5: 8-14)

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **The Gospel:**

*Jesus gives the gift of sight to a man born blind, but the Pharisees remain blind to the source of Jesus' authority.*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John (9: 1-12)

**Glory to you, O Lord**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## **Homily**

## **Profession of Faith**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Intercessions**

Let us pray

We pray for our world and all affected by the Coronavirus. We pray blessings and guidance on the world's leaders, that they be given wisdom and courage through these difficult times. We pray for all who are ill and suffering with Covid 19. We also pray for doctors, nurses and all medical staff and those who support them. We remember all who are working hard to help others and maintain all essential goods and services. We bring before God all who are anxious and afraid at this time.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the Church that tells of your love and helps people to know you. We pray for all those who would like to have been in a church today worshipping you, bless them and fill them with your grace as they worship and pray in their own homes. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the wonderful world you have given to us; for the air we breathe and the water that nourishes us. We thank you for all growing things and for food. Bless all who work hard to provide us with all we need. We pray for all who are hungry and all who are homeless. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the love of our homes and within our families. We thank you for the love and care of our mothers. We remember all who feel isolated and alone on this Mothering Sunday, for those who will not spend time with their families and loved ones. We remember all who suffer from a lack of love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are sick and in any kind of need. We ask your blessing on all who are lonely or neglected. We pray for all who are separated from loved ones.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for your eternal love and pray for our loved ones departed. We remember all who have enriched our lives by their love and goodness. We commit all who have died into your unfailing love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Jesus is the light of the world, illuminating darkness and bringing peace to all.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

**and also with you.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of *[N and]* all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray as Jesus, the light of the world, has taught us:

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ:

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

### **Agnus Dei**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

### **Holy Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

### **After Communion**

Lord God,  
whose blessed Son our Saviour  
gave his back to the smiters  
and did not hide his face from shame:  
give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time  
with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the + Son,  
and the Holy Spirit,  
come down upon you  
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**