Fourth Sunday in Lent Year A

I only know that I was blind and now I see

First Reading: 1Sam.16:1,6-7,10-13. God does not see as man sees.

Psalm 26: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14. You were once in darkness... be like children of the light.

Alleluia Verse: 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 ...

Gospel: John 9:1-41. I only know that I was blind and now I can see.

Com. Verse: The Lord anointed my eyes; I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.


Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Jesus reached out to the blind man. He took time to do whatever he could and gave him new hope and a purpose in life.

Leader: We pray for those preparing for Baptism or received into the Church, and all those journeying with them during this sacred time.

People: May they be enlightened and be witnesses to God’s wonderful deeds.

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord. All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the Church:

People: May we stand in solidarity with those who are poor, abandoned or needy.

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord. All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for countries made desolate by war, and refugees driven from their homes by conflict:

People: May they be strengthened and encouraged by the support given by people of goodwill.

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord. All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for children and parents in the Reconciliation program:

People: May they experience the healing and forgiveness of our loving God,

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord. All: Lord hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Loving God, merciful and compassionate, you reconciled us through Christ and call us to new life, fill us with your love. Grant this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

OUR POPE SAYS: “We need saints without cassocks, without veils - we need saints with jeans and tennis shoes. We need saints that go to the movies that listen to music, that hang out with their friends (...) We need saints that drink Coca-Cola, that eat hot dogs, that surf the internet and that listen to their iPods. We need saints that love the Eucharist, that are not afraid or embarrassed to eat a pizza or drink a beer with their friends.

We need saints who love the movies, dance, sports, theatre. We need saints that are open, sociable, normal, happy companions. We need saints who are in this world and who know how to enjoy the best in this world without being callous or mundane. We need

Please Pray for those who are sick:

Les and Clare Fern, Joe & Rosemary Valle, Josephine and Antonio Di Lembo; Margaret McDonald, Margaret Haugney (Catherine Phillip’s mother) Ardea Tramontin, Viviane Taranto, Gregoria Ocampo. Rhonda Blaser, Antonio Carola.
Living the Gospel: **What do you see?**

This story in the First Reading has been a great favourite. ‘Samuel goes to Jesse on a dangerous mission: to find a new king among Jesse’s sons while Saul is still on the throne. One after the other Jesse’s sons are rejected until the youngest of the sons, David, is brought forward as an afterthought. Who would have thought of him? He is chosen and anointed. In choosing David as king, God overturns the established order.

John’s Gospel story delivers a similar message. It is the man born blind, the one living on the fringe of society who is granted sight. In fact he asked nothing of Jesus and did nothing to merit Jesus’ notice and intervention. Jesus shows us the sometimes paradoxical workings of God, ‘He was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.’ Blindness and the separation from the society and culture of the sighted becomes the means of revelation and enlightenment. Only those in authority remain blind to God’s action in their midst. They repeatedly question the man born blind and his family because of their scepticism that anyone like him could benefit from God’s favour. That is not how God sees it! That is not how it is supposed to be! The ‘know alls’ are left in the dark because the familiar world is tuned upside down.

It is all too easy to remain blind to the reality of God at work in our world today. It is easy to look away when confronted by the stranger from another land and the homeless, the broken and disfigured because of abuse, mental illness or having been ‘stolen’ from their mother or father. These are among God’s favoured ones. God’s word can change us and change the world. God’s passionate love for all people remains. We matter to God and what we do matters to God and the world. Each action of love or hate has implications for others. They are powerful. We may not have power or wealth but we can bring love and encouragement in the lives of others – in unexpected ways - as we go about our daily lives. God’s measure of greatness is different from that of our surrounding society. Again, who we are does matter, and we are all capable of bringing God’s transforming Word into our communities and beyond. As David was anointed, so are we, as priest, prophet and king, at our baptism. God looks upon each of us today, as upon David, and proclaims, ‘this is the one’. The message is for each one of us. God looks upon us. Can we say with the man born blind, ‘I do not know how it is possible, but I believe.’

**PARISH NOTICES AND COMING EVENTS**

**Weekly Collections:**
1st Collection: $1193.75
2nd Collection: $1058.35

**Direct Debit $65.00**

**FEBRUARY**

**LENTEN GROUPS.** Meet at Convent on Tuesdays, Presbytery on Wednesdays at 7.00 pm.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** every Friday in Lent at 6.00 pm

**MARCH CALENDAR**

Thursday 10th from 4.30/6.30 Retreat for the Reconciliation Candidates.

Tuesday 15th Mass of the Oils in the Cathedral at 7.30 pm

Thursday 17th at 6pm Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the children and their families.

Saturday 19th Working Bee for Easter preparation from 9.00 until 11.00 am

Sunday 20th Palm Sunday. Please come along with your children to celebrate Jesus as we enter into Holy week.

Tuesday 22nd at 7pm Third Rite of Reconciliation for all the Parish community.