

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.

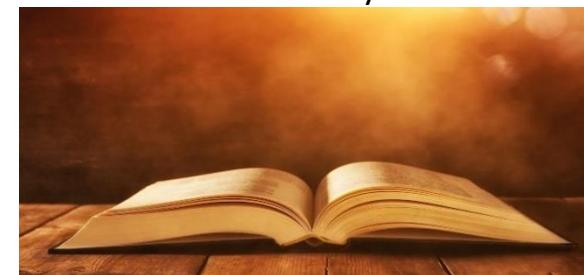
Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him.

COMMENTARY: This gospel reinforces the message from last week, namely, you can trust your experience. The apostles experienced the transfigured Jesus so strongly they were able to believe even in the face of martyrdom. Here the blind man experiences the power of God through Jesus. Later in the story he is questioned by the Pharisees, but he cannot deny his experience. Trusting his experience he worships Jesus. The message then, is look at the God-moments in your life. If you believe it is because you have ‘sight’. Observing all this allows you like the blind man to fall down and worship.

Liturgy of The Word

March 19

4th Sunday of Lent.



Dear Parishioners,

We all need to remind ourselves especially during this season of Lent, just what has happened to humanity as a result of Christ in our world and in our lives. Sadly these days, baptism to many means not much more than asking God to look after their child. But it is far, far more.

To begin, from today’s readings we see David, an insignificant person in the eyes of his father, being chosen for the role of king, over and above his older brothers.

Then secondly, we are reminded once more, using the imagery of dark and light, that we live in the light and are meant to be a light for others.

Finally, the gospel shows us the power of Jesus. He comes to give sight to the blind. However, if we do not recognise our blindness, Jesus will be powerless. On the other hand, if we want this sight, then we ask for it: “Lord, that I may see!”

*Nga mihi,
Fr Alan*

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 people see: people look 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.

COMMENTARY: David would be chosen to be king from among the sons of Samuel. He was the youngest and the smallest. All this represents being insignificant. Yet God chose him. We may well think we can do nothing to enhance the work of evangelisation, yet, in my experience, converts to our faith, are often the result of a word from a very quiet parishioner. Saying “I’m nobody” is not an excuse for abstaining from the Church’s work of evangelisation.

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.*

COMMENTARY: If we ask ‘what is prayer’ then from this reading we can say that it is about being consciously present to God. Then, while we are present to God we are being transformed.

In God’s presence, we recognise our truth and expose this to the light and then we awaken. Conversion is an ongoing process. It happens, albeit slightly, each time we go to God in openness and in a seeking heart.