

THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING

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 one 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 man sees; man looks 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.

PSALM 22 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING

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.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL

Shorter form

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.

St Anthony of Padua

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Priest: Fr. Peter Draper (Tel: 725193)

Deacons: Rev. John Kilshaw (07759 943667)

Rev. Tom Butler (retired - 07853777957);

Sunday Masses: 6.00 (Vigil - Saturday Evening) 9.30am (Sunday Morning)

Weekday Mass: Tue, Wed, Fri: 9.15am. (Mon & Thurs 9.15am at Holy Family)

Confessions: Saturday: 5.30 - 5.50pm

Annexe: 725544

Social Centre: 735963

Primary school: 726621

Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

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How do we see?

To the fearful eye, all is threatening. When you look toward the world in a fearful way, all you see and concentrate on are things that can damage and threaten you. The fearful eye is always besieged by threat.

To the greedy eye, everything can be possessed. A greedy person can never enjoy what they have, because they are always haunted by that which they do not yet possess. Greed generates a driven and atrophied possessiveness. Greed can never engage presence. Having has become the sinister enemy of being.

To the judgmental eye, everything is closed in definitive frames. The judgmental eye sees things in terms of lines and squares. It is always excluding and separating, and therefore it never sees in a compassionate or celebratory way.

To the loving eye, everything is real. Kathleen Raine, a Scottish poet, says that unless you see a thing in the light of love, you do not see it at all. Love is the light in which we see light. Love is the light in which we see each thing in its true origin, nature, and destiny. If we could look at the world in a loving way, then the world would rise up before us full of invitation, possibility and depth. The loving eye can even coax pain, hurt, and violence toward transfiguration and renewal.

"As life seeks out its new normal, I pray that we are able to apply the lessons of this exceptionally barren Lenten journey to redefine "normal" so that it includes more gratitude, appreciation, service, mercy and joy. Returning to our ordinary patterns of life is something that we all hope will occur very soon. Let us bring the memories of these moments with us into the future so that we better value and cherish what may have become under-appreciated opportunities of experiencing God's presence in every aspect of our lives. This disease will not get the best of us; rather, we pray that we will use it to bring out the best in us." John O'Donohue : Anam Cara Adapted. Archbishop Wilton Gregory. Washington. Adapted

Fourth Sunday in Lent Year A 22nd March 2020

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 21st March 2020

Sat	Damien McNamara	
Sun	Patrick Fortune	<i>4th Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday</i>
Mon	For our parish	
Tue	Mary Teresa Wilson	
Wed	Marie & Tom Hooper	<i>Feast: The Annunciation</i>
Thur	Special Intention	
Fri	Kathleen Sheldon	
Sat:	Bill Akin	
Sun	For our parish	<i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>

Last Weekend: Offertory £551.90 Attendance ?? (6pm: 85; 9.30am ??).
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Masses received this week:

Patrick Fortune, Bill Akin, KM Job, KM George, Molly George, Marie & Tom Hooper.

Family Fast Day - Thank you for your generous donations this year of £715.79. In addition we have sent £3825.34 to CAFOD during the past year.

Happy Mothering Sunday!

Please pray for: Joan Anderton, Bill Embery, Lawrence Dunnagan, John Myerscough and Alice Myerscough, Mary Kathleen Kellett, Chris Goldsmith, Frank & Norah Stanton, Teresa Clarkson, Theresa Crook, Betty Murphy, Marie Gardner, Karen Hardman, Carole Adnitt, Frances & Les Farrer, Ann Consiglio;

... for those who have died recently: Mary Theresa Wilson, Bill Akin;

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Kathleen Sheldon, Marjorie O'Reilly, Edith Rigby, Margaret and Arthur Wignall, William Devereux, Frances Kilshaw, Winnie Ollerton, Jack Houghton, Gertrude Turner, Darren Kaye, Jean Clarkson, Mary Toase, Helen Smith, Paul Worthington.

We keep in our prayers those who have been injured or lost their lives in conflict, especially those from our parish.

Church is closed for public gatherings

Sadly for the safety and protection of parishioners all public Services have been suspended. Our church will be open every day from 9am-6pm for people to visit for their own prayers, light candles etc.

Fr. Peter will offer Mass on behalf of the parish every morning but this has to be in private.

- There will a **Newsletter** every weekend as usual. Copies will be in church but if you would like one by e-mail send your e-mail address to parish.priest2@btinternet.com There will be a link on the school website also. It is important that we keep contact with each other.

- You can still email us with things for the Newsletter, including helpful ideas about the current situation and what we can do.

- we have a group of volunteers ready to keep an eye on elderly neighbours, make telephone calls, pick up prescriptions etc. Ring Peter Newsham on 724576.

- Fr. Peter is hoping to offer the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** every Saturday from 5.00-6.00pm—in the Sacristy, rather than the Confessional to allow for social distancing

Bishop Paul writes:

We live in exceptional times and much is being asked of us. Whatever restrictions are imposed on us cannot restrict the Grace of God, rather we are invited to grow more confident and trustful of his abiding presence. The witness we give as Catholics in such circumstances is priceless. A major opportunity here is to encourage and develop practices of personal and family devotion in the home. This is not the first time in Lancashire or Cumbria that this has been the case, we have a rich and heroic heritage on which to reflect and draw strength. Having said that, we resist any temptation to withdraw into ourselves. We remain part of the Catholic Church, and daily we commend the World Community not just the Diocese of Lancaster to God's loving mercy.

Prayer is very important at this time. It is in prayer and in the presence of Christ in our community as the body of Christ that binds us together whether we can physically get together or not. We are never alone when Christ is present with us.

It is highly likely that I will be celebrating the Holy Week Liturgies in the Cathedral in relative physical isolation. Do rest assured that the Liturgies will take place and the Liturgical actions will benefit all.

With my prayers and blessing, keep well. +Paul Swarbrick Bishop of Lancaster

You can follow **Mass streamed** via the internet from St. Mary's Barrow. (11am Sundays & 12.10pm Weekdays, access via <https://ourladyoffurness.org.uk/2020/03/18/livestreaming-of-daily-mass/> or from www.mcnmedia.tv(enter Workington).

St. Clare's will also try to stream Mass live at 10am on youtube. See <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch/>

- We will continue to print the Sunday scripture readings on the Newsletter so you can use them at home.

- **The Catholic Voice.** There are copies of our free diocesan newspaper in church. Or you can read it online at <https://www.churchpaper.co.uk/>

Children's liturgy resources can be found on <http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/>
<http://catholicchildrensliturgy.blogspot.com/> <https://sermons4kids.com/>
<https://www.catholicquiz.com/cqw/reflection.php>

Finally, in all the confusion don't forget **clocks go forward** next weekend!