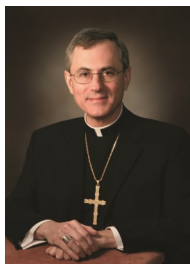


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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 22, 2020



Most Rev.
Ronald Peter Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London

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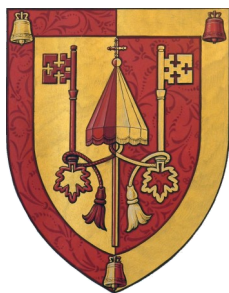
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Healing our Blindness

"In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind."

Excerpt from The Sunday Connection, 4th Sunday of Lent, Cycle A, Loyola Press

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fourth-sunday-of-lent-cycle-a-sunday-connection>

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2. Hold your device over the full QR Code.
3. Your camera will scan the QR Code.



Fourth Sunday of Lent
Read: *1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a*

Don't have a newer Bible:

1. Go to www.biblegateway.com
2. Type in the passage above (Book and Chapter only)
3. You may want to choose the New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition
4. Click on the magnifying glass.

Anointed with the Spirit

Once in a while, God gives us a sign of hope. The clouds of winter yield to the sun of spring. A new friendship develops. An infant brings new joy to a family. Although the season of Lent has urged us to think about sin, it does so against a background of hope. We do not hear the story of sin without hearing also the story of salvation.

When Samuel visited Jesse to anoint a king from among his sons, Israel received a sign of hope. God chose not the eldest son of lofty stature, but the youngest son who was busy tending sheep. Samuel anointed him with a horn of oil and God's spirit rushed upon the young man. We learn his name only at the end of today's reading: David.

David, overlooked by those who should have seen with God's eyes, became a symbol of Jesus. The legendary kingship of David foreshadowed the blessed kingship of Jesus. Jesus is the one we call "Christ," a title that means "anointed".

On your journey through Lent, you have entered a period of renewal. Are you beginning to see God at work within you this season? Can you see the spirit of God in others where you have not noticed it before?

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Praying Differently

I spoke with my mother by phone early Friday morning. After chatting about how things were going in the family, she mentioned how disappointed she was that the doors of the church have been closed to everyone. She understands very clearly why we cannot gather for Mass, but she would simply love to make a visit. Mom loves to prayer the Stations of the Cross during Lent and the church is a short walk from her home. It is extra special to offer her devotion by walking the Stations mounted on the wall of the church.

Mom also loves to walk outside. I offered a suggestion that she takes her Way of the Cross prayer book and walk around a couple blocks in town, stopping from time to time to pray each station. As she prays, I suggested she think about the people in the homes she passed by, the doctor's office on the corner, the grocery store that seems busier than usual, the seniors center and the school that are now closed. How is the passion and death of Jesus taking flesh in those various places right now? Can she see the suffering of Jesus on his journey to Calvary, first experienced 2000 years ago, still alive today in the little town where she lives?

I believe this global crisis offers several blessings in disguise as we learn to pray in other ways. We hunger

for Eucharist and the sacred space of our spiritual home, yet our loving God has not abandoned us. It is up to us to see God's hidden presence in places and people we pass by every day.

Fr. Gary Ducharme



Resource for Lenten Prayer & Reflection

As we mark the midpoint of our Lenten journey, the journey in our world has certainly taken a turn we would have never expected. Where has our prayer and reflection led us so far; where will our prayer and reflection lead us in the week's ahead? Here is a website that may assist you in your Lenten prayer and reflection this coming week from Creighton Online Ministries:

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/fourthweek.html>



From the Desk of the Rector

March 19, 2020

To the parishioners and friends of St. Peter's Cathedral

A friend put it succinctly in an email message - "These are uncharted waters for all of society".

However, the resilience and levels of concern for each other that are becoming increasingly evident inspire hope that we will get through this crisis. We have witnessed many examples of genuine goodwill. We have witnessed the following:

- family and friends reaching out to check in on each other's welfare
- neighbours and strangers shopping for each other
- a growing concern and call to care for the most vulnerable in our city
- people deciding on their own to self-isolate for the protection of others
- politicians rising above partisan concerns to care for our country
- the generosity of health care workers and first responders – always vigilant and available to support and serve

These are just a few examples. I am sure your experience can add to the list.

In the midst of all this we, as people of faith, continue to pray. We always do this, but it is different at this time.

Fr. Jim Mockler

If you would like to read Fr. Mockler's full message to the parish, please visit our parish website at www.cathedral.dol.ca.

We remember in prayer all those who are sick, including Shari Houghton. We also pray for those who have died, and comfort for those who mourn.

We pray for those serving in pastoral ministry throughout our diocese:

Rev. Murray Sample; Deacon Brad Lewis; Mr. Sylvain Patry, Coordinator of Youth Ministry; Ministers to Refugees in the Diocese of London; Nursing Home Volunteers in the Diocese of London; Rev. Arockiadoss Velanganni, O.F.M. Cap.; Rev. John Sharp

READINGS - SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2020

First Reading - Ezekiel 37.12-14

I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.

Psalm - Ps 130.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7b-8 (R.7b)

R. With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

Second Reading - Romans 8.8-11

The Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.

Gospel - John 11.1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

Prayer to Our Lady, Health of the Sick

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of God's People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,

through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection,

O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

- Pope Francis, March 2020


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