



NEWSLETTER

19TH MARCH. 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 19th, 11.30am. Seamus, David, Willie & Eileen Leech. Agnes Cummins.

Saturday 25th, 6pm. Pat Croach.

Sunday 26th, 11.30am. Peg Beatty MM. Pete Reilly MM. Thomas & Margaret McCormack.

Johnny & Frances Monaghan & dec.d family, The Downes.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 19th, 10am. Mick, Mary & Valarie Murtagh.

Sunday 26th, 10am. Barney, Lil, Pat, Ber, & Doreen Murtagh. Joseph Crowe & family.

Weekday Masses; Tuesday, & Thursday Raharney. Wednesday & Friday Rathwire 9am.

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €510
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €458

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



**In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.
& St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm:**
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer
for vocations and the family.*
Take one Hour with the Lord

Stations of the Cross: prayer at the stations on each Thursday of Lent in Raharney at 7pm.

Cemetery Sunday: takes place on June 18th.

Looking Into The Heart

The prophet Samuel comes to Bethlehem to choose a new king from the family of Jesse. He rejects Jesse's oldest son because "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." With this single statement, the Word of God unmasks much of the world's blindness.

We look at poor people and see nothing other than rundown houses and littered streets. We look at the homeless and see nothing other than dirty faces and ragged clothes. We look at people who are different from us and we see nothing other than the color of their skin or the way they manipulate their bodily limbs.

In today's [Gospel](#), Jesus, the light of the world, takes away the man's blindness. This wonderful story challenges us to "live as children of light."

Our Lenten prayer and sacrifice should serve to take away our blindness so that we can look into the hearts of others and love them as brothers and sisters. It "should turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, death to eternal life." It should enable us to say with the blind man: "I can see and I believe in God."

God's word proclaims the oneness of the human family—from the first words of Genesis, to the 'Come, Lord Jesus' of the Book of Revelation. God's word in Genesis announces that all men and women are created in God's image; not just some races and racial types, but all bear the imprint of the Creator and are enlivened by the breath of his one Spirit.

US Bishops, [Brothers and Sisters to Us](#)

Sunday Message

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year A • 19 March 2023 • Colour: Violet or Rose • Psalter Week 4



PRAY

To say you are Christian today is to risk being ridiculed or dismissed as deluded. We can feel like we are on trial, just like the blind man must have felt in today's Gospel. Pray for yourself and Christians everywhere for the strength to witness to the faith, whatever the cost.

LEARN

A Christian is someone who leads others to Jesus

A Christian sees with the eyes of faith

Jesus is the light of the world

SAY

"Lord, I thank you for the gift of faith. Help me to see as you see. Amen."

DO

Easter is drawing close, and now is an excellent time to make an examination of conscience. What are your blind spots? What do you need to change to be a better Christian?



Most of us are blessed with the gift of sight. We can see each other. We can see and treasure our loved ones. We can go to the movies and watch a film. We can feast our eyes on a beautiful sunset or observe our team's goal-scoring feats. The sharp-eyed amongst us will notice how nature is beginning to reawaken after its long winter sleep.

We can see, but there is a difference between being able to see and not seeing as we should. We can see but still not fully see at all. We can have 20/20 vision and still be blind.

Like the Pharisees in today's Gospel. They had the gift of sight, they could physically see, but they couldn't see what was really important. They couldn't see who Jesus really was. They couldn't see what was before their eyes. They suffered from spiritual blindness.

They are the polar opposites of the hero of today's Gospel – the man born blind. This poor man lived in a world of darkness but wasn't spiritually blind. When he encountered Jesus, when Jesus touched him, he could see who Jesus really was. He recognised Jesus as his Messiah and Lord.

So the man who was blind was the one who could see, whereas the Pharisees who could see were the ones who were blind. They didn't recognise Jesus. They refused to see him as their Messiah and Lord. They failed to see the light.

That's the beautiful irony of today's Gospel. And that's the challenge it offers us – to spot our blind spots and see where or how we might be blind. ■

REFLECT

Most of us can see, but we all have blind spots – faults, failings – we may not be aware of or to which we may deliberately turn a blind eye. Maybe there are family members or colleagues we ignore or are not attentive to. Perhaps it's how we see those who are different from us – people who are LGBT+ or of another race, nationality, or background. Maybe our relationship with God is not as it should be.

Perhaps we have got sucked into some form of addiction that we don't want to admit. Maybe we're stuck in a rut, just drifting along, not pulling our weight at home, work, or school. Perhaps we are so closed in on ourselves that we see only our needs, and we fail to see the needs of others. Maybe all those selfies that we take, and the modern obsession with image, mean that when we look in the mirror, we see only what we don't like about ourselves and fail to see the beauty in us and the extraordinary gifts and qualities that we possess.

There are so many forms of blindness and ways we can be blind.

Lent offers an opportunity to put this right. It is a time when we are invited to become aware of our blind spots, what we might need to improve or attend to. Look for your blind spots. Look at your life's shape now - your values, priorities, relationships, and attitudes. Ask the Lord to heal you, as he healed the man born blind. And then change what needs changing so you will have perfect 20/20 spiritual vision. ■