

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Teen's Bulletin



As God Sees

Sunday the 15th of March 2026, Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A

Gospel: John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-3

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.

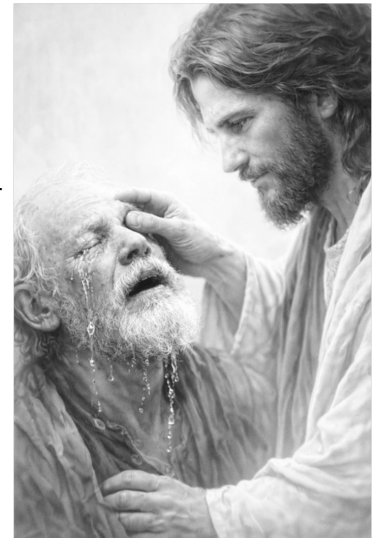
The Gospel of the Lord.

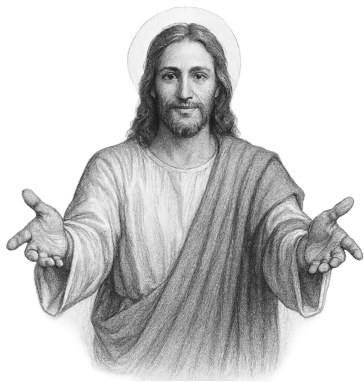
Seeing God in the Midst of Our Struggles

There is a contrast in today's Gospel between the physical blindness of the man Jesus heals, and the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees. The man who had been born blind was a social outcast. It was widely assumed at the time of Jesus that those who suffered from illness or disability were being punished by God for some sin committed by them or their parents. The blind man would have been rejected and looked down upon since his birth.

Jesus, however, saw his suffering. He saw all the pain that the blind man had been through, and the Lord had compassion on him. After encountering Him in this way, the blind man was able to recognize Jesus for Who He is and worship Him.

The Pharisees on the other hand, despite being important and well-respected religious leaders, failed to perceive this truth. Their hearts were closed off from God and hence they failed to recognize Him, even





when He stood in front of them.

How open are our eyes to the presence of God in our lives? It can be hard to see how God is working, especially when we are in times of difficulty or suffering, but Jesus shows us that He sees us and is always close to us, and in a special way in our times of suffering. We can learn to see Him in our lives if we work to keep our hearts open.

The journey towards Easter is a powerful time to recognise Jesus' presence in our own struggles. As we witness Him enter into His Passion, we can trust that our Lord understands our sufferings in a deeply personal way. Just as He had compassion for the blind man, so too does He have compassion for us. If we can believe this, then we can unite our own difficulties with Christ's, confident that just as He healed the blind man, so too will He lead us through our crosses into the glory of His Resurrection.

Questions for Reflection:

What are some ways that God is present to me in my life right now?

Do I have any struggles or sufferings that I can invite Jesus into?



A message from Pope Saint John Paul II: The Light of Christ



Remember, the man has not yet seen Jesus with open eyes. But his heart is full of the desire to know *the one who has done this great thing for him*. He asks: "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" And then comes the great moment when Jesus reveals himself: "It is he who speaks to you." When we are open, the light of Christ penetrates our hearts. When we discover him as *the Way and the Truth and the Life*, we are transformed. God's truth teaches us wisdom; his love fills us with certainty, and with a great desire to do what he wants of us, and to share our discovery with others so that they too may have the marvelous *experience of meeting the Lord*.

The cured man professes his faith: "*Lord, I believe.*" At this moment he worships Jesus and a whole new world opens up before him. He enters into a *new relationship with God*. He will never again doubt

God's unique love for him. He will adapt his life in every way to the will of God, to the following of Christ, to working for the coming of God's Kingdom in the heart of everyone he meets.

An extract from the Papal Address of his Holiness Pope Saint John Paul II upon meeting with the Young People of St Augustine's High School on Sunday, 23 February 1992.