

4th SUNDAY IN LENT (a) 19th March 2023

Introduction

- *Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)*
- *Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.*
- *Remind everyone that there will be refreshments ????*
- *Announce the theme of the liturgy (see next)*

Theme – JESUS REVEALS THE GOD OF LIFE

commentator: As Holy Week approaches –

*the celebration of the death and above all,
the resurrection of the LORD of Life –*

*we hear John's gospel account of Jesus
coming face-to-face with a man blind from birth
who has been forced to beg in order to stay alive.*

*Instead of blaming those who are ill or poor;
of pushing them deeper into their plight;*

*and preventing them from taking appropriate actions
to escape their situations,*

*Jesus reminds us that GOD is a GOD of Love –
not a GOD of punishment.*

*By liberating us from any narrow
and self-serving interpretation
of a blind beggar's situation.*

Jesus reveals the GOD of Life and Love.

- *Announce the opening hymn:*

Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu:
The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, whose table we share,
be with us.*

*all: **And with your spirit***

Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*
either

*presider: Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with
confidence, for GOD is gentle and compassionate.*

*all: **I confess: . . .***

or

*presider: Friends in Christ, the opposite of faith is fatalism;
the attitude that prevails among us a lot of the time!
Faith on the other hand, was an attitude people caught*

*on meeting Jesus. When faith replaces fatalism
the seemingly impossible begins to happen:*

- *We don't think there are any answers to the global problems that beset us. We are so slow to believe in the power of GOD's promises:
- (pause) - **LORD, have mercy:***
- *We are resigned to suffering. We are determined not to be awakened to the compassion and faith of Jesus that transforms us:
- (pause) - **CHRIST, have mercy:***
- *Our self-centredness kills the holy Spirit of GOD: The holy Spirit that seized David and made Jesus the hero of his people:
- (pause) - **LORD, have mercy:***

May almighty GOD, cleanse us of our sins and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to sit at the table of the kingdom.

*all: **Amen***

GLORIA (omitted)

Opening Prayer

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou: ...) GOD our Creator,
show forth Your mighty works
in the midst of Your people.
Enlighten Your Church,
that we may know Your Son
as the true Light of the world
and through our worship
confess him as Christ and LORD,
who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
holy and mighty GOD, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

Introduction to the first reading: *(Samuel 16 : 1, 6 – 7, 10 – 13)*

commentator: David is anointed king.

Introduction to the second reading: *(Ephesians 5 : 8 – 14)*

commentator: renounce pagan ways

Gospel Acclamation:

*all: **Glory to you, WORD of GOD, LORD Jesus Christ!
I am the Light of the world, says the LORD;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, WORD of GOD, LORD Jesus Christ!***

Introduction to the gospel reading: *(John 9 : 1 – 41)*

commentator: a man born blind receives sight

Homily Notes (presider)

- *Insight means being clear-sighted enough to see the obvious. The man healed by Jesus in today's gospel has it: 'I know this much: I was blind before; now I can see.' Being united with Christ through Baptism is to receive the gift of insight. We know we have insight because we know what the world is really all about. It is the place where GOD does wonders of Love. Not the least of those wonders is healing the blindness that keeps us from seeing the truth.*
- *The man who was blind since birth is a model of a Christian. When he stands before his judges, he is an example of the Christian standing before the world, proclaiming Jesus, light of the world, at the risk of ostracism. Until we meet Christ, we are like that man was in that we have not known light. We may think we see, as the Pharisees did, but we do not really see. The man's vision of Jesus develops. This parallels the process by which someone moves from being an inquirer to a catechumen and eventually comes to Baptism. Even those who have been baptised in infancy probably go through much the same development in the course of their catechesis and life.*
- *At first he speaks of 'that man they call Jesus'. At his next interrogation, he declares that Jesus is a man 'from GOD'. Finally, when he has been driven out because of his growing insight, he calls Jesus 'LORD'. Coming to see who Jesus is constitutes true enlightenment. Knowing who he is, we finally know the true story of the creation into which he came. We can see what is in front of us, and recognise it.*
- *What do we see? What is it that should be so obvious to the followers of Christ yet is missed by others? GOD. All people have the possibility of seeing something of GOD. However, without seeing Jesus Christ, one cannot know GOD in the fullest revelation. To see Jesus is to see GOD and to know something of GOD that can be known in no other way.*
- *The call to Baptism is an invitation to be cured of the blindness that afflicts the world. But, why us? Why should I be chosen to know the LORD when billions of better people than I will never have that chance?*
- *Perhaps I need it more than others. Perhaps without the eye-opening experience of knowing Christ my blindness would be worse than that of the Pharisees. In the first Book of Samuel, it is not the strong and good-looking older sons of Jesse who are chosen. It is the runt of the pack, the youngest boy who is not even important enough to be under consideration. He is as unlikely to be a king as a blind man is to be a teacher of true sight to the religious experts.*
- *Yet, it is David who is chosen. It is the man blind since birth who becomes the teacher. It is I, who am called to see GOD in Christ. Unlikely, but GOD's ways are not ours. How can I respond to this choice? The man in the Gospel can enlighten me here. He does the two*

things that define a Christian. First, he proclaims Christ, standing up for him before the world, arguing his case and suffering on his behalf. In other words, the man says what he sees. This may help others realise their blindness and lead them to the eye-opening experience of knowing Christ. On the other hand, it may confirm some in their complacency. Second, 'he said, "I do believe, LORD", and bowed down to worship him'. The healed man not only told others what he believed, he said it to Christ as well and adored.

- *Grateful courage is what underlies his actions. He knows that he needed to be cured and has been cured, and he knows who did it. He isn't afraid to state that obvious truth. Proclamation and worship are the essence of the Christian life. When I reflect upon my call as one who has undeservedly been healed of the blindness that prevents our knowing GOD, I too, should be moved to that same sort of grateful courage. I too, should be a worshipping proclaimer.*

Creed / Statement of Faith

Intercessions - 4th Week of Lent

[Sun 19th – Sat 25th March 2023]

invitation to pray:

commentator: Friends in Christ, as David received anointing as king, at Bethlehem, we receive anointing, at our baptism. We became in Jesus Christ a royal, priestly and prophetic people. Let's make our prayer rise to GOD for the salvation of our world:

1: *For the church; may we witness to the Light of Christ. May we be a dawn of hope, for those who live in the shadow of climate changes:*

- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

2: *For the peoples of Pacific. May the recent efforts to regulate the high seas, work for the long-term sustainability of Pacific peoples, reminding us that we are one global community who must work together for the well-being of all: - (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

3: *For our blind brothers and sisters; may the LORD Jesus, Light of Life, be light in their darkness. May our eyes be opened to the new needs of the poor and vulnerable of our own society: - (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

4: *For Cyclone victims who fear the loss of their homes and possessions and their livelihoods. May they find the support of the wider community:*

- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

5: *For those who are alone, distressed, worried or unwell: by our presence with them, may we reassure them that they do not face their trials alone. We especially pray for: . . . (see parish newsletter)*

Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering.

- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

6: *O GOD, whose mercy is never withheld from those who call upon you in hope, look kindly on your servants who have died recently: . . .*

*and those whose anniversaries occur about now: . . . (see parish newsletter)
Number them among your saints:*

- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

Concluding Prayer:

commentator: Holy GOD, grant us the grace to follow Your Son Jesus in trusting obedience. We ask Your generous blessings in Jesus Christ, now and always:

*all: **Amen***

(If no priest is presiding; introduce the LORD's Prayer.)

Prayer over the Gifts

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou: ...) With joy, LORD, we present to You the sacrifice that brings us eternal healing.
Grant in Your goodness
that we may celebrate this mystery with faith
and offer it worthily for the salvation of the world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our LORD:*

*all: **Amen***

Preface *(the reward of fasting)*

presider: The LORD be with you.

*all: **And also with you.***

presider: Lift up your hearts.

*all: **We lift them up to the LORD.***

presider: Let us give thanks to the LORD our GOD.

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*presider: It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal GOD.
Through bodily fasting You control our sinful desires
and raise our minds to You;
You give us strength
and grant us the reward of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our LORD.
Through him the choirs of angels and all the powers of heaven
worship in awe before Your presence.
May our voices blend with theirs
as they sing with joy the hymn of Your glory:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER – for Masses of Reconciliation II

Memorial Acclamation

(the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN')

Introduction to the LORD's Prayer

commentator: Let us pray for the coming of GOD's realm as Jesus taught us:

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, LORD, we pray, from every evil;
graciously grant peace in our days,
that by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always freed from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,
now and for ever. Amen.***

Sign of Peace

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

presider: The peace of the LORD be with you:

*all: **And with your spirit.***

commentator: Let us offer each other an appropriate sign of peace:

Lamb of GOD

*all: **Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us (x2)
Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.***

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living GOD,
who by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your death gave life to the world;
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood
from all our sins and from every evil:
keep us always faithful to your commandments
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

*presider: Behold the Lamb of GOD. Behold him who takes away the sins of
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

*all: **LORD, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.***

Holy Communion

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:
(Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti:)*

Prayer after Communion

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou: ...) GOD of majesty,
You enlighten everyone who comes into this world;
fill our hearts with the light of Your grace,
that our thoughts may always be pleasing to You
and our love for You always sincere.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our LORD.*

*all: **Amen.***

(an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . .)

Dismissal

*commentator: We are sent;
in the name of the GOD, Searcher of our hearts;*

*in the name of Jesus, the Eyes of GOD's love;
in the name of the Spirit, the Opener of our faith vision;
to overcome the threat of evil in our world
and to let our world see,
the completion of the work of Jesus.
We have been enlightened
through GOD's WORD and SACRAMENT.
We may not have all the light
but may we act fully,
on the light we have received,
until we gather again:*

*all: **Amen***

The Blessing

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu.*

*all: **Amene***

commentator: The Mass has ended, go in peace.

*all: **Thanks be to GOD.***