

Our theme this week is:





Peace be with you And with your spirit



We light our candle to remind us of Christ's presence with us as we gather + In the name of the Father ...





Today we hear how Jesus helped a blind man to see again. God has given us the gift of sight to see all the wonderful things that he has made in our world. But we also need to open our eyes to things that are wrong and try to do what we can to change them. Let's think some more about this today.



Opening Prayer

God of power and glory, we give thanks to you for the wonderful gift of sight. Open our eyes to the good things in this world. Help us also to see when things are wrong and what we can do to change them.



Lord Jesus, for the times we have been unkind and not looked to help others. Lord, have mercy. LORD HAVE MERCY

Lord Jesus, we are sorry for all the bad choices we have made. Please forgive us and help us to choose to follow you. Christ have mercy. CHRIST HAVE MERCY

Lord Jesus, for the times we have lacked the ability to forgive others. Lord, have mercy. LORD HAVE MERCY



Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory.



A reading from the Gospel according to John: *Glory to you O Lord*



Read John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 (pages 30&31)

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

Time to reflect on God's words for us today.



What do you remember from the reading you have just heard?

Jesus makes a paste, puts it on the blind man's eyes and tells him to wash in a pool. When the blind man does this, he can see.

How do you think the blind man felt at being able to see for the first time?

The Pharisees (some of the religious leaders of the time) question the man and his parents to find out how Jesus gave him his sight. The man tells them but they do not believe it and grow angry.

Jesus tells the Pharisees that they are blind because they cannot see that he is the Son of God.

While there is nothing wrong with their eyes, the Pharisees do not open their hearts to see the truth of who Jesus is. While the blind man is able see and to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

God has given us five senses to learn about the world that is around us.

We can **see** all the beautiful and wonderful things that God has created like birds, trees, flowers, fish, family and friends.

We can **hear** lovely music and the birds singing.

We can **smell** flowers, and the sea, and grass when it has just been cut.

We can **taste** yummy food and drink.

We can **feel** the sun warm on our skin, the soft fur of a pet when we stroke it, and the hands of our friends when we do a high five.

Have a think about the wonderful things in our world that you have seen, heard, smelt, tasted or felt.



We also need Jesus to help us to see the truth about the world around us and how we should treat one another. As well as our five senses, we need to open our hearts to others so that we can reach out and help them when they need us.

Sometimes there are problems or things that are not right in this world. We can take notice of these problems and try to make them better.

We can see that it is not fair for some people in the world to have lots of money, power and things while others of us are poor or hungry or do not have a safe place to live.

We can see that we are damaging our planet and that the climate is changing. Floods, droughts and natural disasters are happening more often and affecting more people around the world.

But we can also see what is possible when people work together to solve problems. God calls us to use our gifts and not to ignore the problems that we see. We can try instead to make a difference, to care for our earth and to help people who are sad or poor to change their lives for the better.

Look out for all the good things that you can see in the world this week. If you see anything that is working or unfair, think about what you could do to help to change it.

Bidding Prayers

We ask God to help us open our senses to the world as we pray together...

We pray for world leaders: that the Holy Spirit may open their eyes to see the problems that face them and find ways to help all people, especially those who are poor. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for people who are hungry: that they may not be ignored and that with God's help we can work together to make sure all people have enough to eat. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that the Lord may guide us to notice the problems of others and together we may do all that we can to make a difference. Lord, in your mercy...



In the quiet of our hearts let's say our own prayer to God. We ask you Mother Mary to pray with us as we say:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,

blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Amen

Closing Prayer

God of hope, inspire us to look out into the world, praising and thanking you for all that is good, and seeking your help as we try to change what is not fair or right.

Amen.

Our Faith in Action



This week let us show the Gospel Value of Humility and the Virtue of Prudence.

We can show humility by:

- Not being boastful
- Recognising the strengths of others
- We can show prudence by:
- Making sensible choices
- Considering how others will feel before acting

May God bless us with his mercy, strengthen us with his love, and enable us to walk with courage, hope and faith in ourselves and you. **THANKS BE TO GOD**



