

Gospel Reflection

What's worse: physical blindness or moral and spiritual darkness? Sin clouds the mind in darkness and closes the heart to God's love and truth. Only in the light of God's truth can we see sin for what it really is, a rejection of God and opposition to his will. The Pharisees equated physical blindness and sickness with sin.

The Pharisees were upset with Jesus on two counts. First, he healed the blind man on the Sabbath, which they considered a violation of the Sabbath rest. Second, how could a sinner and a sabbath-breaker do such a marvellous work of God! The cured man must not have really been blind at all! This blind man was well known to many people and his parents testified under oath that he had indeed been blind since birth. Their prejudice made them blind to God's intention for the Sabbath and to Jesus' claim to be the One sent from the Father in heaven to bring freedom and light to his people. Paul the Apostle warns us to avoid the darkness of sin that we might walk more clearly in the light of Christ (Ephes. 5:8-12).

Do we allow any blind-spots to blur our vision of what God is offering and requiring of us?

St Joseph's Day Celebration A big thank you to all those who helped to organise this event and to everyone who brought in an Easter Egg. The Easter Egg Tombola and Raffle raised £220. Thanks also to everyone who came to the party and made it such a success.

COFFEE MORNING 29th March 10:30am. Please come along and meet parishioners who go to a different Mass to the one you usually attend. There will also be a Bring and Buy Stall - so bring something along.

PARISH RETREAT: Sadly we have had to cancel this Lindisfarne Retreat as there were insufficient numbers wishing to go. We are organising a Retreat in November at Foxhills in Frodsham. Please take a form from the porch and return it ASAP

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 11am Mass on Sunday morning..

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm.that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's RC Church
Woodford Lane
Winsford
CW7 2JS

Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor
Tel: 01606 543877
Website; www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk
email: stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk
General Queries – contact Derek Pearce
Tel: 01606 889048
email: pearcederek36@talktalk.net
Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united
in love, with a common purpose
and a common mind"
Philippians 2:2

26th MARCH 2017 **4th SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A)** **MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

Saturday 25th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Frank Rose RIP Birthday & Wedding Anniv.
Sunday 26th March	9:30am 11:00am	Frank Chedotal RIP People of the Parish
Monday 27th March	9:30am 7:30pm	Service of Word and Communion Scripture Group
Tuesday 28th March	9:30am	Mass – Charlie Jones RIP
Wednesday 29th March	10:30am Noon	Coffee Morning Mass – George Mannix RIP
Thursday 30th March	9:30am	Mass – The Agar and Clarke families RIP
Friday 31st March		No Service
Saturday 1st April	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Brenda & Gordon Lyle RIP
Sunday 2nd April	9:30am 11:00am	Norah and Michael McNeill RIP People of the Parish

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

DAY OUT TO PANTASAPH: This coming Wednesday.
Please pick up a sheet from the Porch if you are interested.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mrs V Powell

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

We are still collecting unwanted spectacles/cases to be sent to the Missions. If you have any that you no longer need please bring them in

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITY DAY: If you have not brought in your completed form can you please bring it in this weekend. You can put it through Fr Simon's letterbox.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES The new Boxes are available today. Please take your new box - but please don't start using them until the 9th April. If you are not already making your Offertory donations by Envelope – or by Standing Order – and would like to, please speak to George Snape or Derek. Similarly, if you wish to Gift Aid your donations please ask for a Gift Aid form.

OUR LENTEN CHARITY

If you were here last weekend you will know that we have now decided to donate our Lenten Charity donations to support the Disaster Appeal for those starving in East Africa. So far £465 has been collected. We were intending to give the money to SPA, but in view of the situation in Africa we felt we should support this Appeal. We will be making a donation to SPA from Parish funds.

THE APACHE RESERVATION: Please see the letter (on the notice board) from Fr Eddie in Arizona – thanking us for our donation.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Derek on- 01606 889048

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel John 9

Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. He then spat in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man's eyes, and said, "Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam"

(Siloam means "Sent").

The man went and washed—and saw.

Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, "Why, isn't this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?"

Others said, "It's him all right!" But others objected, "It's not the same man at all. It just looks like him." He said, "It's me, the very one."

They marched the man to the Pharisees. This day, when Jesus made the paste and healed his blindness, was the Sabbath. The Pharisees grilled him again on how he had come to see. He said, "He put a clay paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "Obviously, this man can't be from God. He doesn't keep the Sabbath." Others countered, "How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?" There was a split in their ranks.

They came back at the blind man, "You're the expert. He opened *your* eyes. What do you say about him?" He said, "He is a prophet."

They said, "You're nothing but dirt! How dare you take that tone with us!" Then they threw him out in the street.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and went and found him. He asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

The man said, "Point him out to me, sir, so that I can believe in him."

Jesus said, "You're looking right at him. Don't you recognize my voice?"

"Master, I believe," the man said, and worshiped him.



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi