

NEWSLETTER

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?

Signs seen outside Churches

Under the same management for 2,000 years!

You have one new friend request – from Jesus 😊

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.

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Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor

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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

22nd MARCH 2020 4th SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 21st March	5:15pm	Mary Godfrey RIP
Sunday 22nd March	9:30am 11:00am	Dorothy Black RIP Anniversary People of the Parish
Monday 23rd March	9:30am	Bernard Cannon RIP (Anniversary 18 th March)
Tuesday 24th March	9:30am	William and Mary Cannon RIP (Mary's Anniversary)
Wednesday 25th March	Noon	Joan, Joyce and Paul Davies RIP
Thursday 26th March	9:30am	Father Simon's Intentions
Friday 27th March		No service
Saturday 28th March	5:15pm	Nora Jane Stein, Long Island, NY RIP
Sunday 29th March	9:30am 11:00am	Margaret Matthams RIP People of the Parish

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are no public Masses from Friday 20th March until further notice

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.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Jane Chilton

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacle and cases.

Online Masses There is the opportunity of sharing mass together by viewing the live stream that will be sent from Shrewsbury Cathedral. There is also a schedule of prayer and mass times that can be viewed. The main website is <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/>

The live streams are on the 'Live Masses' link <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/live-masses>

Gift Aided Offertory Donations In April we will be claiming the Gift Aid Tax Refunds on Offertory Donations from those in the Gift Aid scheme. If you are no longer paying any Income Tax will you please let George Snape know – on 01606 557201 - or gsnapeaccountant@btinternet.com

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

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 Reading 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