

NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

The story keeps emphasising that the man was blind from birth. To heal him then means the beginning of a completely new life, a life where he can see. He will enter a new world of brightness. Not to know Jesus is to live in blindness and darkness. In fact, this story is an illustration of Jesus' statement: "I am the light of the world".

In the beginning of the story, the man is blind – he cannot see; he is a beggar – he has nothing; he is an outsider – no one accepts him. His affliction indicates that he is a sinner or the son of a sinner and as such, a person to be avoided. In the end, when he is able to see, he becomes a disciple of Jesus. In terms of the Gospel, it is the logical and inevitable outcome. Once we really see Jesus, we are hooked.

In the beginning he was blind, he was in darkness. In the end he is in the light, because Jesus is the Light of the world.

Funeral for Father Simon's Dad

All are welcome to attend the funeral of Father Simon's dad on Friday 24th March at All Saints Church in Sale. Please contact Father Simon to let him know so he can plan numbers.

Safeguarding: After many years of dedicated service from our Parish Safeguarding Representative, we are now looking to identify a new volunteer that would be willing to support the parish in this role. This safeguarding role is vital to the diocese ensuring we maintain our high standards of care and safeguarding provision. If you are interested and would like to know more about the role please contact Fr Simon - or the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator, Mr Andrew O'Brien on 07557731492 - who will be happy to answer any queries and provide further information.

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 10am 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.

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

Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor

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General Queries – contact Rebecca Vickers

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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

19th MARCH 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 18th March	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 19th March	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 20th March	10:00am	Mass
Tuesday 21st March	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 22nd March	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 23rd March		No Mass
Friday 24th March		No Mass
Saturday 25th March	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 26th March	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

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 – Miss Wendy Kearns

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

Prisoner Outreach

Please continue to drop your loose change into the bottle on the table in the porch and help to support this good cause.

Offertory Envelopes

The new Boxes of Envelopes are in the Porch for you to collect. Please look for your name on the Boxes. If you can't find a Box for you – or if you would like to start using Envelopes – please take one of the spare Boxes and complete the slip in the Box and hand it in the next time you are at Mass.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to make your Offertory Donations on a monthly basis by Bank Standing Order there are forms available in the porch. Similarly, if you are an Income Tax Payer you can join the Gift Aid Scheme by taking a form from the porch. Please hand in any Standing Order forms and Gift Aid forms to the Parish. Please don't send them to your Bank or the Diocese.

Coffee morning

The Coffee Morning on Tuesday raised £135. Thank you to everyone who helped to organise the coffee morning and thanks to everyone who supported the event. The next coffee morning will be Tuesday 18th April.

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

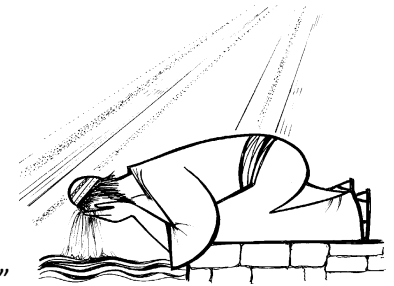
Gospel John 9



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