

"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts,  
keep encouraging one another" (Heb 3:13)

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13**

God does not judge by appearances, but looks at the heart.

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

We have been freed from darkness and are called to live as true children of the light.

**St. John 9:1-41**

Jesus has come into the world so that those without sight may see, but we need to recognise and admit our spiritual blindness.

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life".



Jesus puts human need before the need to follow rules and regulations – he heals the blind man on the Sabbath. He takes a risk, knowing that breaking the rules about Sabbath will bring him into conflict with those in authority – by doing this he risks being seen as an outsider. But by taking this risk he brings someone in from the outside – someone who was excluded from society by attitudes towards his disability.

Many people at that time believed that illness and disability were punishments for sin. Jesus shows that the blindness is physical. The story also has a symbolic meaning, in that the blind man can now "see" that Jesus is the light of the world. Metaphorically, the light enters even the "darkness" of blindness.

The light is the light of truth – it shines into the darkness and shows us what is right, what is of real value. We become aware that to put our faith in Christ into action means care, compassion and active practical help for others, particularly those who are excluded or in need.

**Questions for reflection**

- Am I too afraid to break the rules? Would I be prepared to take the risks Jesus takes?
- In what ways could I put my faith into practical action for those who are excluded or in need?

**Today's Psalm**  
**Psalm 22**  
**Silvester O' Flynn**

The granting of sight to the blind man is the second of John's stories, used this Lent, for the catechumens on their journey towards baptism at Easter. Baptism was sometimes called the sacrament of illumination. Taking light from the paschal candle is still part of the ceremony. Paul expands on the theme of baptismal light: "You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord."

The shepherd of the psalm gives new eyes to the flock. He sees where there will be fresh pastures and restful waters. He leads them along a safe path, way from dangers. His guiding light is most powerfully appreciated in the valley of darkness. Many paintings of the Good Shepherd portray him with a lantern in hand.

When we, like the newly enlightened man of the gospel, believe in Jesus as our Lord, our lives are in constant contact with the source of true light. Faith enables a person to travel through life with expanded vision, seeing with the eyes of God. The practical effects of this inner light, according to Paul, are shown in complete goodness, right living and truth.

*He guides me along the right path.*

**St. Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton - Tel: (01257) 262665**

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday March 10 2023

**Sun: 4th Sunday of Lent**

8.30.am. Patricia Williams

10.30.am. Paritioners

**Mon: Weekday of Lent**

9.30.am. Requiem Beth Picup

**Tues: Weekday of Lent**

9.30.am. Sick of the Parish

**Wed: Weekday of Lent**

9.30.am. Joseph Michael Hicks

**Thurs: Weekday of Lent**

10.30:

**Fri: Weekday of Lent**

700.pm: Peace

**Fith Sunday of Lent**

8.30.am. Malcom Sutcliffe

10.30.am. Beth Picup

**0771 942 7926** (only for emergency use)

Email [stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk)

**Confessions**

**At Your Request**

**Masses Recead**

**Malcom Suciffe**

**Jean Telford**

**Our prayers and condolences go to the family of Maurene Beardsworth who has died. Her Funeral will take Pace at St, Josephs**

**Chorley 11.00. on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. Burial at Euxton.**

**theWe pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish including- Catherine Thompson; Ryan Troop; Thomas Halligan; William (Bill) Drinkwater**

**Refreshments will be served after 10.30 Mass today.**

**Mothering Sunday** has been celebrated in the UK on the fourth Sunday in Lent from the 16th century. On this Sunday it was expected that families should attend their 'Mother Church'. This history is largely forgotten, but it remains an opportunity for us to show our mothers just how much we appreciate and love them. On Mother's Day we pray especially for all mothers and thank God for the care and love they give to their children. We ask God's blessing especially for mothers who struggle to protect their children against poverty and injustice.

Last Sunday, in his letter, the Archbishop mentioned FamilyParishes. The Archdiocese many Parises, but not r enough Priests to cover them. So he has established **"Family Parishes** of 3 churches. Our Parish Family consist of St Gregory; St. Oswald; St Agnes; SSPeter & St. Paul; StOswald.

A "wise man can see more from the bottom of a well than a fool can from a mountain top." Author Unknow

