

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Have mercy on us, O Lord.
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant us your salvation.



May almighty God have mercy on us... Amen.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16: 1.6-7.10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said 'Come, and anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. [R]



2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort [R]

3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. [R]
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. [R]

SECOND READING Ephesians 5: 8-14

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL John 9: 1.6-9.13-17.34-38 (Shorter form)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg? Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him. The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

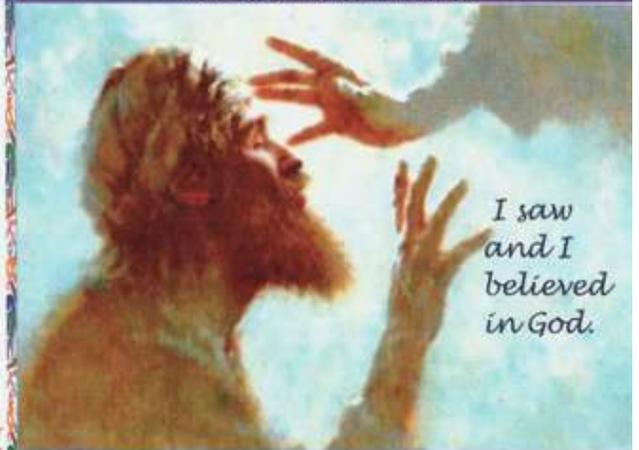
They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'he put a paste on my eyes and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this? And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'he is a prophet' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born! And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

focus on sunday

Without faith we are blind to the ways of God. With the light of faith we can see the path Jesus laid down for us so that we may follow him and enjoy the glory of the resurrection when our time comes.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.



The curing of sight was on two levels. The miracle ends with Jesus telling the man he is looking at the Son of God. He can now see who Jesus is with the eyes of faith. The physical miracle has led to a deeper faith. Other times deep faith has led to a physical miracle.

OPEN TO FAITH

The blind man was open to faith; he was a true disciple in that his listening to what Jesus told him to do led to him doing it. Faith is both a way of thinking and a way of doing; it is prayer and service; when our heart opens in faith to Jesus, our hands open in aid to the poorest of the poor.

The blind man was poor in the sight of many; he would have been thought a sinner, and his parents, because he was blind. Not alone could he not see, but he was not accepted as a person of religion and faith. His faith was easily awakened by Jesus.

Openness to faith is a call in our whole lives. Jesus is never a finished product for us. He has always something new to offer in love and something new to offer in wisdom. Like the blind man listening to his instructions to wash in the pool, we are the richer by listening to his word, and allowing his word and the faith of the community guide us in life.

Amazing grace, I once was lost and now am found. Help me stay like this!

Donal Neary SJ, editor, Sacred Heart Messenger.

St. Paul's Parish Ayrfield



**Fourth Sunday
of Lent
(Laetare Sunday)
26th March 2017**

Mass Times

Saturday : 6 pm Vigil
Sundays : 10:30 am & 12 noon
Weekdays : Mon. – Fri. 10:00 am
Monday 7:30 pm

Contact: Co-Parish Priest Fr. Paddy Boyle 086 1011 415
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Parish Office 8160984 Sacristy 8160981
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We remember at Mass and in our prayers those who have gone before us

Saturday 25th 6:00 pm

Brendan Sinnott
Birthday Remembrance

William Whitford
20th Anniversary

Sunday 18th 10:30am

Sandra Purcell
Birthday Remembrance

May & Matt McCarthy
Anniversaries

Monday 27th 7:30pm

Frank Rock
10th Anniversary

Wednesday 29th 10:00am

John Henderson
14th Anniversary

May they rest in peace

Saturday 1st is the **First Saturday** of the month, **11:00am** mass and will be offered for all those on the **Mass Bouquet List**.

Coffee Weekend

We are hosting a Coffee/Tea weekend after all the Masses **this weekend 25th / 26th March.**

All proceeds will go to the **Infant Jesus Sisters' Mission in Nigeria.**



Our Lady of Knock Prayer Group

A meeting will take place on **Thursday 30th of March** at **8pm** in St Gabriel's Nursing Home, Glenayle Road, Raheny.

Devine Mercy Pilgrimage in Knock

A coach for the Divine Mercy Pilgrimage in Knock is being organised for **Sunday 23rd April**. The Seats are €25 each and the bus will depart at 8am sharp. See our notice board for more details.



**Make-A-Wish Ireland
Annual Wish Day
– VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Make-A-Wish® Ireland has one simple aim – we grant the wishes of children aged between 3 and 17 years living with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy and create extraordinary memories for them and their families.

Volunteer are needed for WISH DAY, our annual fundraising day, on Friday 31st March 2017.

See our notice board for more details.

Thought for the day

The blind man said "***I do believe, Lord,***" and he worshiped Him.

Faith is not a static fact or speculation, but an interior vision, a profound mystical relation, lived in the details of difficult daily life. Like love, faith is a commitment and must grow day after day in the long journey of life: through faith for faith.

Prayer: *I do have faith, help the little faith I have* (Mk. 9:24)



**"I panic when I hear the water is coming.
I feel fear for my daughter."**

Floods, storms, droughts, famine and conflict are an inescapable part of daily life in the world's most vulnerable regions. People living with poverty are always the worst impacted. Give them your support them this Lent.

By supporting Trócaire at Lent, you help ensure that families in developing countries can earn an income and have enough to eat, you help communities rebuild their lives after disasters and conflict, and you defend the rights of people under threat.

Trócaire Boxes are available on the stands in the church.

Lenten Talks continue with a 'Ten Minute Talk', **every Wednesday** at 10:00 Mass:

March 29th: 'The Lord is gracious and merciful'.

How do we show the kindness of the Lord? – Sr. Kitty Ellard

April 5th: "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples"

Where do we find the Word of God? – Fr. Donal Neary SJ

April 12th: "you were led to your crucifixion like a gentle lamb to the slaughter"

Death and Resurrection – Fr. Paddy Boyle

A special collection for **The World Meeting of Families 2018** will take place, **next Weekend**, on 1st and 2nd of April 2017. This collection will replace the *Share* Collection.

CROSSCARE

The Annual Collection for **CROSSCARE Youth Services** taken up at all masses last weekend amounted to **€1,190**. Many thanks for your generosity.

Notice to Coeliacs: *If you have been advised to abstain from Gluten, please contact the Priest before Mass so that we can try to accommodate your requirements.*