

# Silent Reflections

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Vision



## **Introduction to the theme**

There is a saying that there is none so blind as one who will not see. In the account of blind Bartimaeus we are presented with a man who was absolutely blind. Bartimaeus could see nothing with the physical eyes with which he had been born, yet he could see things on a spiritual level that others were blind to – who Jesus was. This man was blind physically, but he had 20/20 spiritual vision – blind eyes, seeing heart.

As we cautiously emerge from lockdown we are looking at a world with fresh challenges and this is true for how we see ourselves and our lives but also how we see our mission as church in this place.

How can we improve our spiritual vision – both as individuals and as Church ?

Mark 10:46-52  
New Revised Standard Version

## **The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus**

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

After reading these this biblical passage you may wish to use it in one or more of the following spiritual exercises:-

- You may wish to start by looking at the photograph on the cover page for a few moments. Who might this be ? Who is being invited ? What might the invitation involve – for both parties ?
- Imagine the scene involving Blind Bartimaeus. Where are you placed within the scene? Are you physically present? Are you an outsider looking in? How are you feeling? What emotions are invoked ?
- One way of praying is to read the material very slowly and listen carefully and peacefully to the words and the feelings they evoke in you. Read or whisper the words in a rhythm with your breathing – a phrase at a time – with pauses and repetitions when and where you feel like it. This reading or listening is different from the reading we are generally accustomed to, and you may find it referred to as lectio divina, literally sacred reading. This is reverential listening: listening both in a spirit of silence and of awe. We are listening for the still, small voice of the Spirit that will speak to us personally - not loudly, but intimately. We read slowly, attentively, gently listening to hear a word or phrase that is God's word for us today.
- Once you have found a word that speaks to you in a personal way, take it in and reflect on what God is showing you, or calling you to. Take in the word, memorise it - and while gently repeating it to yourself, allow it to interact with your thoughts, your hopes, your memories, your desires. In this way, you allow God's word to become a word that touches you and affects you at your deepest levels through the Spirit. If you still have your finger labyrinth from earlier this year you might like to use it at this point. The final stage is to rest in God's presence.



Here are some other thoughts to ponder.....

A Poem

You had a name.

Not all who were healed would we thus, remember

You had a name

It was known because you followed.Remember?

You had a name

Of course you did and we remember.

You have a name.... because you also taught us a prayer,

“Jesus,Son of David,have mercy on me ! “

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Some quotations on the theme of Vision

“ As selfishness and complaint pervert the mind, so love with its joy clears and sharpens the vision - Helen Keller

All it takes is one good person to restore hope - Pope Francis

Following Jesus is simple but not easy – Love everyone until it hurts and then love them more - St Mother Teresa

See God in all things – Ignatius Loyola

God’s invitation is for us to pray his vision into reality - Anon

## A Reflection

Jesus asked blind Bartimaeus “What do you want me to do for you ?”

How would you answer this question?

How might the Church answer this question ?

Bartimaeus answered the question with clarity and absolute Faith in Jesus to meet his need.

## A Prayer

A decorative scrollwork graphic consisting of black, swirling lines that forms a partial frame around the prayer text. The scrollwork starts at the top left, curves across the top, and then descends vertically on the right side, ending in a small flourish at the bottom right.

**Holy Father God,** give us clear vision and purpose. Show us Your perfect plan and give us guidance and direction to thoroughly accomplish the goals You have set before us. We believe that everything You have promised will become a reality in perfect time. Give us patience to follow You and to enjoy everyday life with grace and gratitude.  
**In Jesus name. Amen.**