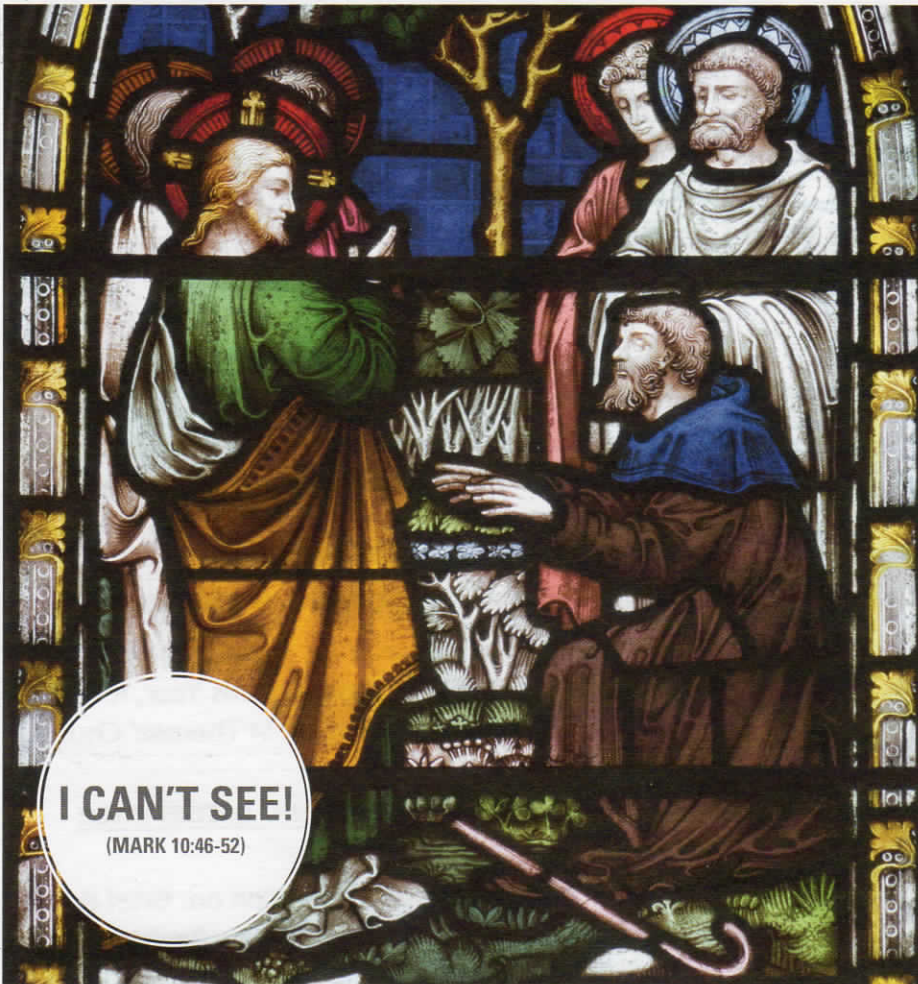


Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus: stained glass in St Mary Abbots Church, London

The miracle stories of Jesus are not simply records of Jesus being kind and compassionate. They are 'catechetical devices' or ways of conveying a deeper message to us about Jesus and ourselves.

When a person is healed, they are made whole and their deepest needs are met in the person of Jesus. To be blind is not simply to lack the ability to see but is also, in the Gospel tradition, a means of expressing being without faith, or at least having an incomplete belief in who Jesus is. The evangelist indicates how a particular person understands Jesus by the use of the titles which they use in speaking to him. In today's story, Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, calls out to the "Son of David", thereby recognising him as someone with healing powers. He is also a person who is determined not to be prevented from approaching Jesus, and his persistence pays off in ways that he could not imagine. He actually cries out to Jesus, "Have mercy on me". When Jesus tells those who are trying to prevent him making a nuisance of himself to let him through, the blind man addresses him as "Teacher" or "Master", which has overtones of the rabbi/disciple relationship. The man's struggle to reach Jesus results not only in his receiving back the physical sight which he had lost but also he has been granted salvation: "Your faith has saved you". The story ends with his "following Jesus along the road", a symbolic way of saying that he had now become Jesus' disciple.

This story is about a positive reaction to the person and invitation of Jesus. It stands in stark contrast to the picture Mark gives us of the disciples and their misunderstanding of Jesus and his mission. It is also the final episode in the journey of Jesus and his disciples before they enter Jerusalem and the narrative takes a dark and hostile turn. Like other stories in Mark's version of the Gospel, the call to be a disciple of Jesus leads to testing and difficulty rather than an easy life. That is the message Mark wants us to hear and accept. ■

SAY

Master, let me see properly.

LEARN

Solomon is the best-known 'Son of David': popular tradition attributed healing powers to him.

Bar is the Aramaic word for 'son'. The title of the Jewish ceremony of Bar-Mitzvah means 'Son of the Commandment'.

In the wider context of Mark's Gospel, Bartimaeus is following Jesus on the road towards Jerusalem and the Passion.

Jericho was an oasis in the Judean wilderness south of Jerusalem. It was a popular winter resort for members of the upper classes who found Jerusalem too cold and windy.

DO

Try to navigate your way round your house (safely!) in the dark or with your eyes shut. Imagine what it would be like not to be able to see. Reflect on your journey of faith in the light of this experience.

REFLECT

It is worth noting that Bartimaeus was a person who had had the misfortune to lose his sight. He had not been born blind, so he was conscious of what he had lost. As we are all too aware, our sight is a precious faculty; it is also very vulnerable and can be easily damaged, impaired or lost altogether. Some people lose their sight gradually and it can only be restored through a surgical intervention. In the Gospels, sight is often used as a metaphor for faith, and if we are to understand the Gospel message properly, we should try to be sensitive to the double (and deeper) meaning of these stories. The evangelist is conveying a message about ourselves and our relationship to Jesus. So perhaps we might ask ourselves whether our sight has become dimmed by not paying enough attention to our prayer life and thinking about our faith; thus we become less aware of the Lord in our lives. It may be that we will have to struggle to reach Jesus, but Mark is telling us that the result is well worth the effort. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's Dromore **All Saints Ballela**
Sunday 11.00am Sunday 9.45am

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

Mon, Wed, & Thurs- 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word with Eucharist

Wed 7.00pm (All Saints day Vigil)

Tues & Fri : Mass – 9.30am

Sat: 10-11am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thursday – 7.00pm

Feast day Mass, All Saints Day

Wed 31st Oct, St Colmans – 7.00pm (Vigil)

Thurs 1st Nov, Ballela - 7.00pm

All Souls Day - Fri 2nd Nov

St Colmans - 9.30am

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 28: Hugh, Mary Theresa &
Hugh jun McCusker

Sun 4: Willie-John McPolin
Johnny McEvoy

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 28: None

Sun 4: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1149.44

Recently Deceased

Mary Beins, Fortfield, Dromore.

Readers - Dromore

Sun 4: Caroline Rooney

Do This In Memory

"Week 2" of Do This In Memory Will take place today Sun 28th Oct in Dromore.

November Dead lists

Are available at the back of the church please return within the next two weeks.

Sick Visits

The sick of the parish will be visited on **Tues 30th Oct.**

Tea and Chat

Will take place in St Colmans hall after 11am Mass on today.

Sunday 28th October 2018

Parish Draw Winners Week 29

£100	Louise McEntee	152
£50	Joseph Cull	126
£30	Caroline Rooney	082
£20	Alice Morgan	520

Pilates Classes

Another block of Pilates Classes will resume on Tues 6th Nov at 7pm in Ballela school. Cost is £54 for 6 Classes. This class is kept small so the teacher can focus on each individual. If interested contact any committee member or Sara Duff on 07928674733. This class is open to men & women.

Annaclone, Ballela & Dromore Lourdes

Committee There is a Lourdes reunion mass for everyone who travelled to Lourdes this Year, it will be on Sunday 28th October at 3pm in St Therese' Church Scarva Rd Banbridge.

Dromantine SMA Retreat and conference centre

Invites you to a weekend of reflection on: Grief & Bereavement on Sat 3rd to Sun 4th Nov. Registration 10am sat finishing after lunch 2pm Sunday. Facilitated by Sister Una Boland, L.C.M. cost £80 includes accommodation & meals. Tel: 02830821964.

Special Mass for the Deceased since: 31-10-2017

A Mass to commemorate and pray for the deceased of our parish since Nov 2017 will be held in both churches on **Sun 18th Nov** at normal mass time. The following is a list from our parish records of those who have died. Please let us know if there is anyone from our parish who has died and is not on the list: John McCormac, Mary Elizabeth Keenan, Mary Caulfield, Brendan Fox, John Donaldson, Margaret Gladys Walsh, Laurence McDonald, Esme Gilmore, Johnny Doyle, Mary Beins. A candle will be brought to the alter during mass by a member of the bereaved family and this candle can be placed on the grave after mass.