



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

Rev Feidhlimidh Magennis Tel: 07702665123
Parochial House Dromore Tel: 02892-692218

Rev Dr Frank Rice, Permanent Deacon
Mobile: 07746-842977

Parish website: www.stcolmans.org
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Parish email address: office@stcolmans.org
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

Thirty - First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 4th November 2018

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

Tues & Fri : Mass – 9.30am

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

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thursday – 7.00pm

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 4: Willie-John McPolin
Johnny McEvoy

Thurs 8: Kathleen Byrne

Sun 11: Margaret McAnarney & members of
The McCann Family, Co-Cavan.
Joseph Magee

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 4: None

Sun 11: Patrick & Lucy Delaney

Offertory Promise Collection £769.85

Recently Deceased

Lily Lennon, Lagan Villas, Dromore

Recently Baptised

Eiméid Pearse McCann

Readers - Dromore

Sun 11: Eibhlin Scott

Do This In Memory

"Week 2" will take place in All Saints, Ballela next Sunday 11th Nov.

Santa Returns to Dromantine

7/8/9 & 14/15/16 December. Early booking advisable as spaces are limited book online now at www.dromantineconference.com also Craft Fair on Sunday 9th from 12 – 5pm.

Battle's Over, A National tribute, 11th Nov

2018 St Colmans Church, will take part in an event to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1. A tribute to everyone who served on the battlefields, the high seas and the home front. At 7.05pm on Sun 11th Nov the church bell will ring out for Peace.

Parish Draw Winners Week 30

£500	Sarah McAleenan	020
£500	Keli Haslem	432

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Fri 19th Oct: 8 10 19 23

No £10 winners, seller: Gary McMullan

Fri 26th Oct: 8 12 19 22

£10 winner's: Denny McInnes, Sinead Burns & Shane Burns. Seller: Anglers Rest.

Fri 2nd Nov: 2 3 11 12

£10 winner: Gerry McPolin. Seller Rory McPolin.

Next week's jackpot £2000

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.

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 & Lily Lennon. 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.

N.I. Blood Transfusion Service

The next blood donation session will be held in the Cathedral Church Hall, Dromore on Wed 14th Nov 2pm – 4pm & 5.15pm – 8pm. In order to maintain the vital supply of blood to our hospitals, the NI Blood Transfusion Service needs the support not only of existing donors but also of new donors.

Sick Visits: the sick of Dromore will be visited on Tues 6th Nov.