

22 March 2020

Sight and insight

John 9.1-41

Jesus gives sight to a man born blind, who comes to 'see' him for who he truly is. But Jesus' critics refuse to see as the man sees, and their attitudes reveal a more sinister kind of blindness.

To explore: growing in faith; seeing and not seeing.

Picture it

- What do you see in this image by a blind artist?
- How might you/your church respond if Jesus said, 'you can see, but you are not seeing'?
- What steps might we take to make sure we really are 'seeing'?



Live your faith action

A faith action based on this week's reading

Look out for an opportunity to challenge prejudice – especially against people who may be disabled or disadvantaged in our society.

Prayers:

Opening prayer

As we come before your throne,
take away our blindness, Lord.

Open our eyes that we might truly see you:
our shepherd, our comforter, our redeemer.

Amen.

Confession

God of grace, forgive the blindness that stops us
from seeing the best in people,
assuming that we are always right, so others must be wrong.

Forgive the blindness that sometimes makes us
regard some people as inferior,
or when we haven't allowed them a point of view
because of disability or status.

Forgive our blindness to poverty, to prejudice, to injustice.
Forgive our blindness when we see people as 'nobodies'.

Forgive us, Lord, and open our eyes to wonder and to possibilities,
to relationships and to community.

Amen.

Intercessions

Light of the world,
we pray for those who suffer prejudice because of any kind of disability
– physical, emotional, social or mental:
help us to recognise our prejudices
and to treat all people equally.

Open our eyes that we might see.

We pray for all who work for a fairer and more just society,
where all can be free to live,
no matter what their circumstances.

Open our eyes that we might see.

We pray for all who walk in darkness,
with no light and little hope:
may they know the joy that only you can bring.

Open our eyes that we might see.

Heal those who mourn, suffering loss and sadness;
those who are alone, rejected by family and friends;
those who are outcasts in our society.
Lord, show us how to be instruments of your healing.

Open our eyes that we might see.

Amen.

Collect of the day

Merciful Lord you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.