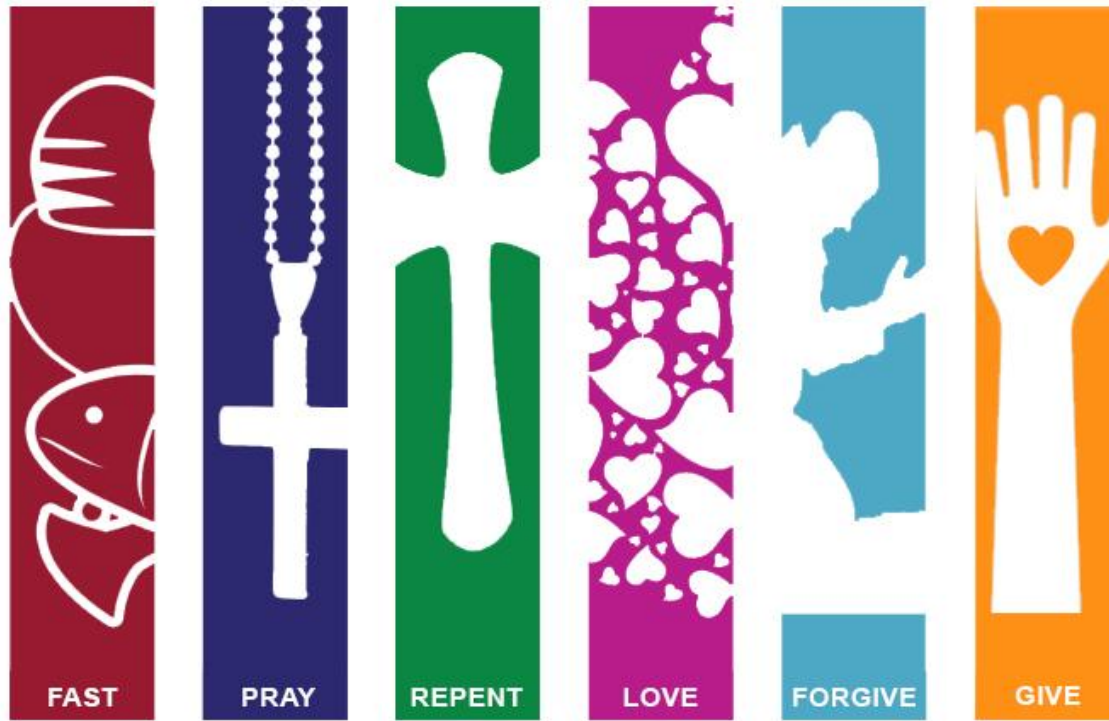




LENT



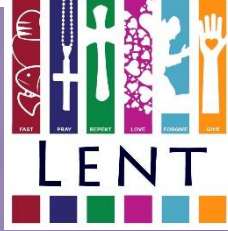


LENT



## This Sunday's Gospel - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him.

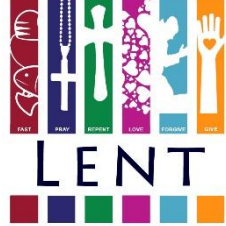


**The word of God**

# Prayer One

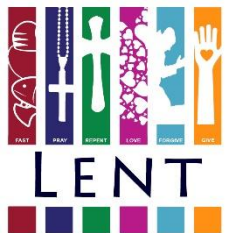
## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



## *Reflection*

*Our theme this week is WITNESS, because the Gospel story revolves around a man who has the courage to simply talk about the things that have happened to him.*

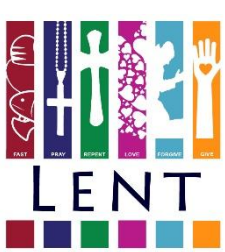


**This week's Gospel is about a blind man. Jesus heals the man and, naturally, the man wants to tell people all about it.**

**The Jewish authorities (who were threatened by Jesus, and so usually the bad guy in the Gospel stories!) failed to believe the man and so they examined him again and again, but yet he stuck to his story, simply telling people what had happened to him.**

**Christians are called to be witnesses to what we have seen. We are called to tell people what God has done for us.**

**A witness isn't somebody with an agenda, but rather somebody who just truthfully says what they have seen.**



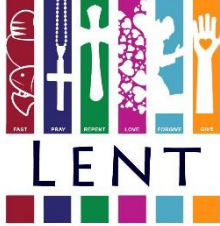
**Being a witness in our theme is about being a witness to Christian faith, but it can be seen as a little more broad than that. In one sense, we are witnesses to everything we represent and we are called to be faithful to that.**

**Some things to reflect on:**

- **What have you been a witness to in your life?**
- **Have you witnessed a lot of love and help from other people?**
- **Have you witnessed great acts of kindness?**
- **Have you witnessed great skill?**
- **What do other people witness about you?**



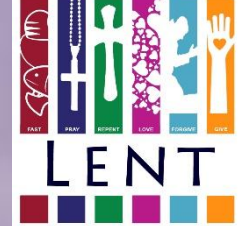
# Final Prayer



**LOVING FATHER...**

**Your Son came to earth to witness bring your grace and your love, and you ask us to bear witness to this by the truths we tell and by the way we live our lives. Give us the courage always to do this, especially when it's more difficult and challenging.**

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**



# Prayer Two

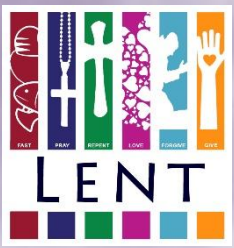
## The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

### *Reflection*

*Blind people having their sight restored is something that happens a lot in the New Testament. By performing this miracle, Jesus reveals his power and authority and he also does something exceptionally kind.*

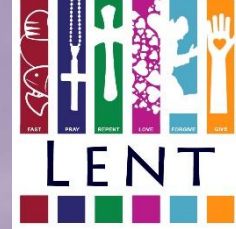




**Blindness is also used in the New Testament as a metaphor for failing to understand something important, and we see this at the end of this week's Gospel reading, when Jesus talks about stubborn people who refuse to acknowledge what he is about. *'Those with sight, turn blind,'* he says.**

**God is trying to tell you all sorts of important things about your life and he is calling you to listen. The question for you is whether you are blind and unwilling to listen, or whether you are able to listen and to see the life God has for you in all its beauty and awe!**





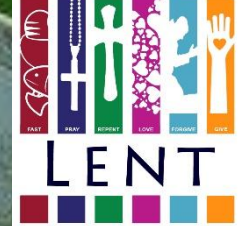
# **Final Prayer**

**LOVING FATHER...**

**May we not be people who are blind, but people who see the amazing things you have prepared for us!**

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**





# Prayer Three

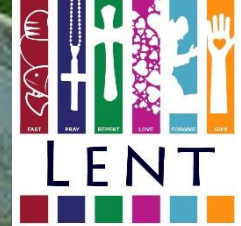
## The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

***Reflection:***

**A great witness and great saint to focus  
on at this time of year is St. Patrick. His  
Feast day is 17<sup>th</sup> March**



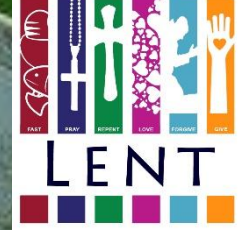


St Patrick is a great role model in terms of "bearing witness" to his faith.

Key aspects of St. Patrick as a witness include:

- **The *Confessio*:** This document serves as his primary, autobiographical testimony, written in his old age to defend his ministry and honor God.
- **A Witness to Conversion:** Patrick transformed the Irish, whom he described as previously worshiping "idols and unclean things," into a people of the Lord.
- **Faith Under Pressure:** He persevered through slavery, exile, and threats, relying on God's strength rather than his own.
- **Testimony Against Slavery:** In his *Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus*, he strongly condemned the slave trade and persecution of his converts.
- **Symbol of Faith:** He is known for using the shamrock to explain the Trinity and for his unwavering, prayerful reliance on God.



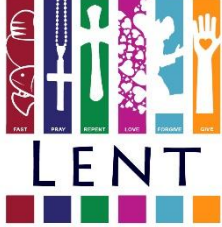


**Final Prayer**

**St. Patrick...  
Pray for us!**



# Final Thought...



***Next Weeks Theme: Lazarus***