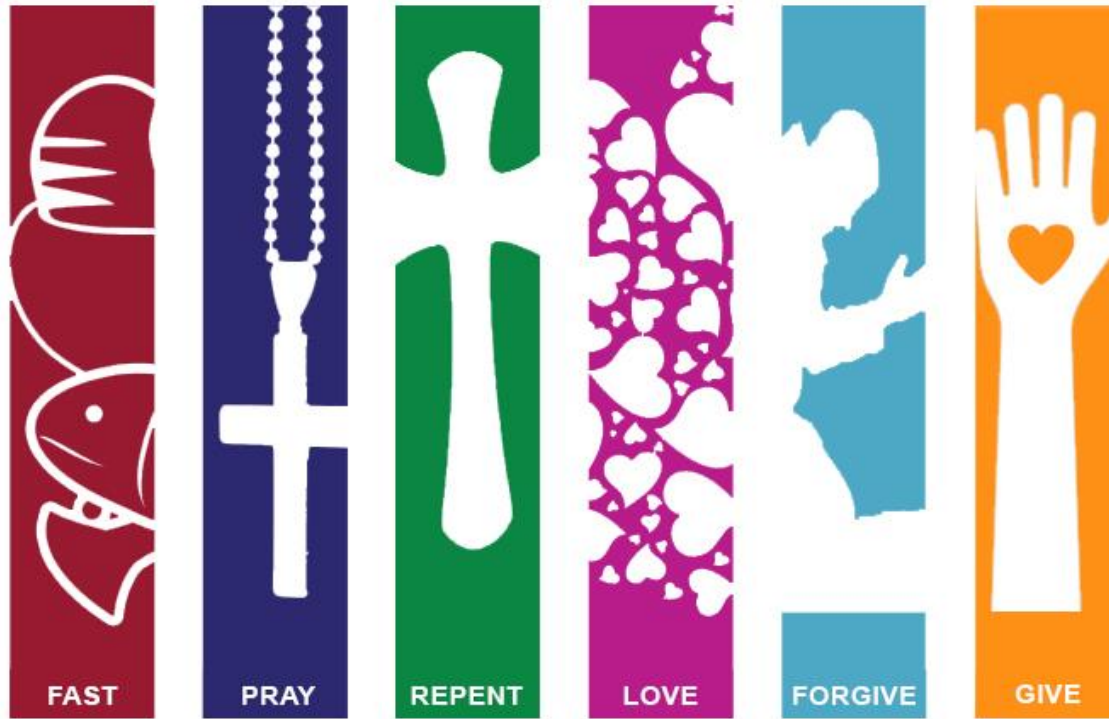




LENT



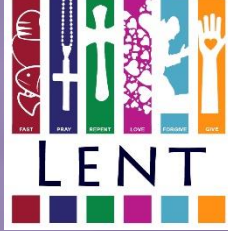


LENT



This Sunday's Gospel - 4th Sunday of Lent Year A

(John 9:1-41 with abridgements)



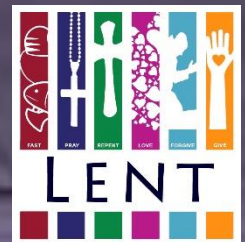
As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth... he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Silo'am" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. Those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Silo'am and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay 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?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." ...

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 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 speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this, and they said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

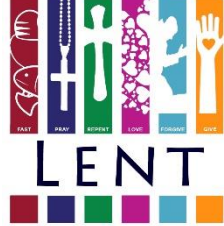
The word of God



Prayer One

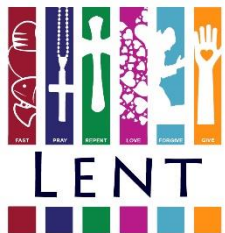
The Sign of the Cross

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.

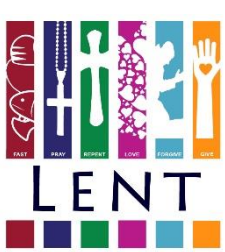


This week's Gospel is about a blind man. Jesus heals the man and, naturally, the man wants to tell people all about it.

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.



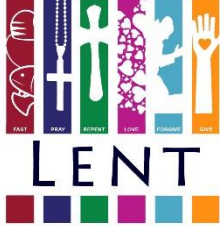
Being a witness in our theme is about being a witness to Christian faith, but it can be seen as a little more broad than that. In one sense, we are witnesses to everything we represent and we are called to be faithful to that.

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.

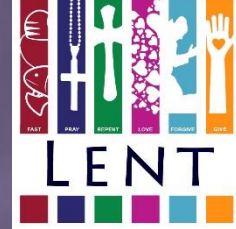




Blindness is also used in the New Testament as a metaphor for failing to understand something important, and we see this at the end of this week's Gospel reading, when Jesus talks about stubborn people who refuse to acknowledge what he is about. *'Those with sight, turn blind,'* he says.

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!





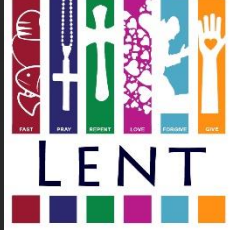
Final Prayer

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

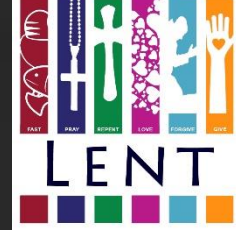
Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection:

Our saint of the week this week is
St. Simon of Cyrene.
His feast day is 25th March



Simon was a pilgrim in Jerusalem at the time Jesus was killed. He had come to Jerusalem for the Passover, which was a popular thing for Jews to do, and he had become caught up in the crowds the day that Jesus was made to carry his cross through the streets.



When Jesus struggled under the weight of his cross, the Roman guards made Simon help him for a while. Because of this, he shared in a small part of Jesus' trials that day.

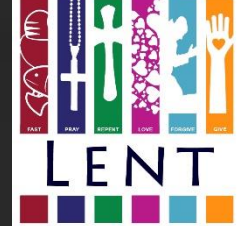
Look at this image (One of the Stations of the Cross that are around the school during Lent)

***What do you see?
Travellers on the same road, helping to carry the same weight, looking in the same direction, stronger together.***

We too can be like Simon, helping others by sharing their load.

Who do you support? Who supports you?...



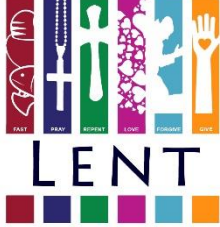


Final Prayer

**St. Simon...
Pray for us!**



Final Thought...



Next Weeks Theme: Lazarus