

4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) (Year A)



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

'He went and washed and received his sight.'

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.



Reflection

Today is Laetare Sunday, and the priest wears rose vestments. It is a small but meaningful sign of hope in the middle of Lent and a reminder that Easter – the celebration we are journeying towards – is getting closer.

The Gospel today is also filled with hope. Jesus heals a man who has been blind from birth by making mud and placing it on his eyes, then telling him to wash. When he does, he can see. It is a life-changing moment. Yet the people around him struggle to believe that he has truly been healed. Later, Jesus finds the man again and asks him about his faith. The man simply replies, "I believe." As we continue through Lent, how can you be a sign of hope to those around you?

Materials needed

- Glass jars
- Sharpies or glass pens
- Tea light candle

Activity

Each person has a glass jar to decorate. What images of hope could you add to your jar design?

Once the jars are finished, place a tea light candle inside and light it. Perhaps light it everyday, reminding you to be hopeful.

Call to Action

When you light your candle each day, can you think and pray for those places and people that are in need of hope?