

# Catholic Parish of Walsingham

ST PETER, BLAKENEY ✕ ST HENRY WALPOLE, SJ, BURNHAM MARKET ✕ OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, WALSINGHAM ✕ OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR OF ST MATTHEW

MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2020

(1836)

Parish Mass Book, Readings & Prayers 164-170 Prayer of the Church, week 4

Although we are unable to meet together to celebrate the Eucharist, we should not miss the opportunity to reflect on the wonderful story of the



cure of the man who was born blind. To restore sight which has been lost is an extraordinary thing; to bestow the gift of sight where it never was is an act of creation. When the Jewish authorities complain that Jesus cannot be 'from God' but 'is a sinner' because he had broken the Sabbath by giving sight to the blind man, the man himself protests; "Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes and you don't know where he comes from." He know that Jesus is 'a prophet' and, if he were not from God, could not have given him sight. When he

meets Jesus later, Jesus asks him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" This seems, at first, to be a strange thing to ask. We might expect Jesus to call himself something which indicates more clearly his divinity. Son of man can mean simply a human being. In the Gospel of John, however, the title 'Son of Man' is understood to mean the one who has come down from heaven, the Word of God who is made flesh. He is also the one who will be 'lifted up' so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him (John 3:14). This is at once a reference to his crucifixion and his glorification; his death and resurrection. When Jesus asks the man who has been given sight, "Do you believe in the Son of Man," all of this is contained in the question. The man answers, "Tell me who he is so that I may believe," and when Jesus identifies himself as the Son of Man he says, "Lord, I believe." By Jesus' gift he is able to see not only the physical world but to recognise who Jesus is. The authorities who resent Jesus' intervention but, who can see the world around them only too well, are blind to the revelation of God Christ. Let us thank God for the gift of faith to sustain us in good times and in bad.

....from CHRISTUS VIVIT

*"Youth ministry has to be synodal; it should involve a journeying together that values the charisms that the Spirit bestows in accordance with the vocation and role of each of the Church's members, through a process of co-responsibility... Motivated by this spirit, we can move towards a participatory and co-responsible Church, one capable of appreciating its own rich variety, gratefully accepting the contributions of the lay faithful, including young people and women, consecrated persons, as well as groups, associations and movements. No one should be excluded or exclude themselves. In this way, by learning from one another, we can better reflect that wonderful multifaceted reality that Christ's Church is meant to be." (206-207)*

*But Mousie, thou are no thy-lane,  
In proving foresight may be vain:  
The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men,  
Gang aft agley,  
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,  
For promis'd joy!*

Robert Burns' reflection on the mouse whose nest he had just destroyed captures something of how we must all be feeling in the face of the disruption we are experiencing as our plans are swept aside by

the spreading around the world of a tiny virus. The acts of self-denial we envisaged on Ash Wednesday have now been eclipsed by the fact that we must deny ourselves the opportunity to gather for the Eucharist, even at the Holy Season of Easter. The Mass will be celebrated each day in the parish and

you can participate in the Mass and other spiritual exercises which will be streamed daily from the Shrine at Walsingham. It is a deprivation but we should bear it patiently and pray each day in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Amazon region, the South Pacific and elsewhere who are able to take part in the Eucharist only very infrequently even under normal circumstances. Fr Tom and myself say Morning Prayer each day at 8.00 a.m. and will celebrate the Eucharist on your behalf at 9.30 a.m. This has to be behind closed doors but it would be a nice idea to turn your attention to these prayers at those times as an expression of our parish

*"... I only know that I was blind and now I see."*

Because of the Covid19 virus, there will be no Masses or other services in any of our churches until further notice.

**St Henry Walpole, SJ, Burnham Market, PE31 8HD MASSES: Sunday, 9.30; Friday, 9.30**

**St Peter, Blakeney, NR25 7NP MASSES: Saturday 18.00; Sunday, 11.00; Wednesday, 9.30**

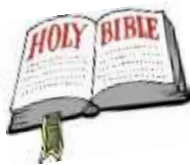


**The Annunciation, Walsingham, NR22 6DB MASSES: Sunday, 10.30; Weekdays, 9.30**

**Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Wells, NR23 1EY MASSES: Saturday 18.00; Sunday, 9.15; Thursday, 9.30**

### THE YEAR OF THE WORD

**Befriending the Scriptures** cannot, of course, meet at present We can, however, keep reading Matthew's gospel and the readings appointed for the Mass of the day even though we cannot meet.



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| Sunday:    | 1 Samuel, 16:1-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 |
| Monday:    | Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 29; John 4:43-54                    |
| Tuesday:   | Ezekiel 17:1-12; Psalm 45; John 5:1-16                     |
| Wednesday: | Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 144; John 5:17-30                    |
| Thursday:  | Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 105; John 5:31-47                    |
| Friday:    | Wisdom 2:1-22; Psalm 33; John 7:1-30                       |
| Saturday:  | Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7; John 7:40-52                   |

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Lent is a time for answering afresh the call to discipleship. The sacrament of reconciliation ranks highly among the means of doing this. Remember also that you may ask the priest at any time to hear confession even in these difficult times And that you may make an appointment for confession with any of us.

*Happy Mothers' Day*

Parish Clergy: Revv. Keith Tulloch, SM, (Parish Priest), Thomas Goonan, SM,  
Steven Leeder (Deacon)

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