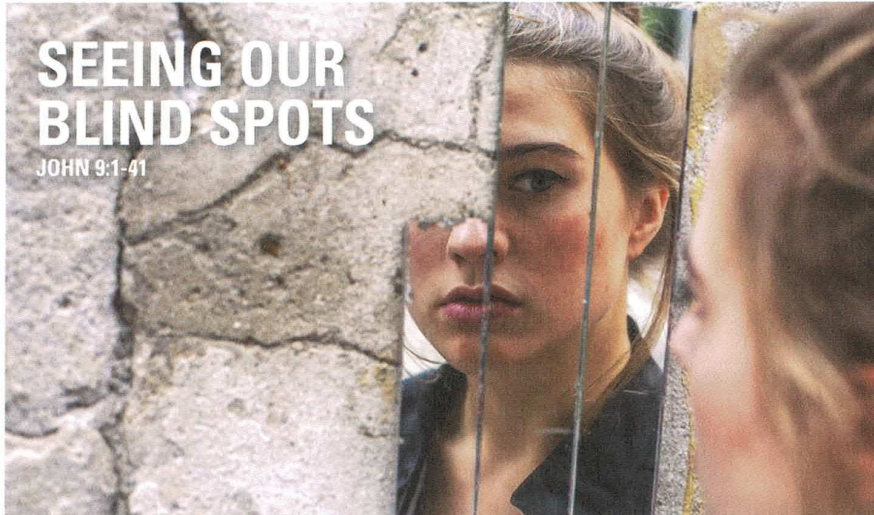


Sunday Message

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year A • 19 March 2023 • Psalter Week 4



SEEING OUR BLIND SPOTS

JOHN 9:1-41

Most of us are blessed with the gift of sight. We can see each other. We can see and treasure our loved ones. We can go to the movies and watch a film. We can feast our eyes on a beautiful sunset or observe our team's goal-scoring feats. The sharp-eyed amongst us will notice how nature is beginning to reawaken after its long winter sleep.

We can see, but there is a difference between being able to see and not seeing as we should. We can see but still not fully see at all. We can have 20/20 vision and still be blind.

Like the Pharisees in today's Gospel. They had the gift of sight, they could physically see, but they couldn't see what was really important. They couldn't see who Jesus really was. They couldn't see what was before their eyes. They suffered from spiritual blindness.

They are the polar opposites of the hero of today's Gospel – the man born blind. This poor man lived in a world of darkness but wasn't spiritually blind. When he encountered Jesus, when Jesus touched him, he could see who Jesus really was. He recognised Jesus as his Messiah and Lord.

So the man who was blind was the one who could see, whereas the Pharisees who could see were the ones who were blind. They didn't recognise Jesus. They refused to see him as their Messiah and Lord. They failed to see the light.

That's the beautiful irony of today's Gospel. And that's the challenge it offers us – to spot our blind spots and see where or how we might be blind. ■

PRAY

To say you are Christian today is to risk being ridiculed or dismissed as deluded. We can feel like we are on trial, just like the blind man must have felt in today's Gospel. Pray for yourself and Christians everywhere for the strength to witness to the faith, whatever the cost.

LEARN

A Christian is someone who leads others to Jesus

A Christian sees with the eyes of faith

Jesus is the light of the world

SAY

"Lord, I thank you for the gift of faith. Help me to see as you see. Amen."

DO

Easter is drawing close, and now is an excellent time to make an examination of conscience. What are your blind spots? What do you need to change to be a better Christian?



REFLECT

Most of us can see, but we all have blind spots – faults, failings – we may not be aware of or to which we may deliberately turn a blind eye. Maybe there are family members or colleagues we ignore or are not attentive to. Perhaps it's how we see those who are different from us – people who are LGBT+ or of another race, nationality, or background. Maybe our relationship with God is not as it should be.

Perhaps we have got sucked into some form of addiction that we don't want to admit. Maybe we're stuck in a rut, just drifting along, not pulling our weight at home, work, or school. Perhaps we are so closed in on ourselves that we see only our needs, and we fail to see the needs of others. Maybe all those selfies that we take, and the modern obsession with image, mean that when we look in the mirror, we see only what we don't like about ourselves and fail to see the beauty in us and the extraordinary gifts and qualities that we possess.

There are so many forms of blindness and ways we can be blind.

Lent offers an opportunity to put this right. It is a time when we are invited to become aware of our blind spots, what we might need to improve or attend to. Look for your blind spots. Look at your life's shape now – your values, priorities, relationships, and attitudes. Ask the Lord to heal you, as he healed the man born blind. And then change what needs changing so you will have perfect 20/20 spiritual vision. ■



HASLEMERE
HINDHEAD
CHIDDINGFOLD

Parish Bulletin

Mothering Sunday

A happy and blessed day to all mothers and their families!

Mothering Sunday is a celebration held to honour mums and maternal figures. We pray for all Mothers today and wishing all our Mothers all the joy and happiness.

This Fourth Sunday of Lent is always about rejoicing. We rejoice because we have made it halfway through Lent! We rejoice because the Lord continues to call us His people and to draw us to Himself. We rejoice because we know that Jesus came in the flesh for us, died for us and is raised from the dead for us.

God Bless you, Fr Rajesh

Coffee at St Teresa

There will be coffee after 9am mass at St Teresa **TODAY** Sunday 19th March. All Welcome.

Easter Lilies

Parishioners are invited to take one of the special envelopes at the back of the Church, write on it the names of those, living or deceased, whom they wish to remember at Easter, and to place a donation for the lilies inside and put the envelope in the collection plate. Lists of those names will be placed in the Church for prayers to be offered. The lilies will be used for our Easter display. As there will be no service at St Anselm during Easter itself the Lilies will be put in place the following weekend.

If you are going to use the Digital Collection Plate at, please write the name of the person/s for whom you are making the donation on the list at the back of the church. Another way of donating for them is available at our parish website (in the message section, enter the name of the person you are sponsoring the lilies for).

Stations of the Cross

Each **Friday** during Lent at **7pm** in Our Lady of Lourdes. We will be serving soup each week from 6pm in the Parish Hall before Stations of the Cross. Funds from the soup supper will go towards Easter Eggs for the Food Bank.

All Welcome.

Lenten Group

You can still join the Lenten Group as each week stands independently so you can just come to one or all as you wish. Come along on **Tuesday 21st March at 7pm and then Tuesday 28th March and 4th April** in the Parish Hall.

Alternatively Godalming Parish are running the same course on a Wednesday evening at 8pm starting 1 March at Ladywell Convent, Ashstead Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1ST either go along or sign up [here](#) (Godalming only).

The Letter

We will be showing a screening of The Letter, **Thursday 23rd March at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall.

The Letter tells the story of a journey to Rome of frontline leaders to discuss the encyclical letter Laudato Si' with Pope

Francis. The exclusive dialogue with the Pope, included in the film, offers a revealing insight into the personal history of Pope Francis and stories never seen since he became the Bishop of Rome.

If you want to know more about Living Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor please join us at this our first LiveSimply event in the parish.

Social Committee

We feel there is now a need for a Social Committee as we are having more events in our Parish. Mary-Lou Knox has offered to be the lead but we are looking for volunteers to assist. If you feel you could make a cake or some nibbles or perhaps serve drinks or tea and coffee at one of our Parish Events please contact Mary-Lou coopermarylou@aol.com or have a chat over coffee with her in the hall after mass.

Repository

The Parish Repository at Our Lady of Lourdes has re-opened and will be open next **Sunday 25th March** and then 4th Sunday of the month. Why not come and browse and buy your Easter cards or some reading material for Lent. Also available are gifts and cards for FHC, Confirmation, Baptism plus much more.

Joint Easter Services

We still require people to volunteer for the Ministries over the Triduum so please sign up. Sign-Up sheets are at the back of all churches. For Our Lady of Lourdes, we only need people to volunteer for processing with a Holy Oil or foot washing on Holy Thursday.

100 Club

Thank you to all members of the 100 Club for their continued membership, which enables the Parish to support worthwhile causes such as the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

The 100 Club is one of the main ways in which the whole Parish can continue to raise money on a regular basis for charitable donations. As one would expect the call for donations has increased and we would be grateful if you would now consider joining. The cost of one ticket is £5 per month but you can have more than one ticket plus there is a chance of winning a cash prize.

If you are interested in joining the 100 Club forms are available at the back of the Church and these can be passed to Fr Rajesh or contact Diane Breen.

Concert

Arundel Cathedral 150th Anniversary Concert Series: Robert Sholl (organ), **1st April at 1pm**. Robert plays Tournemire's Seven Last Words of the Cross along with other music suitable for Holy Week. Jean-Yves Daniel-Lesur: Scène de la Passion, Tournemire: Sept Chorals-poèmes d'orgue pour les sept paroles du Christ Op. 67. Free entry with a retiring collection.

The Passion

The Passion of Jesus, Trafalgar Square in London, **7 April at 12 noon and 3.15pm**. Wintershall brings the Passion of

Jesus to London again this year with two free performances. People across our community are invited to attend - or even join the cast with rehearsals in Guildford and London. Find out more [here](#)

Events in the Diocese

For details and sign up forms visit <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

- Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead on 14 June 2023
- Mass for Engaged Couples at Arundel Cathedral on 16 June 2023
- Marriage Anniversaries Mass at Arundel Cathedral on 30 September 2023.

- Lourdes Pilgrimage The A&B Diocesan pilgrimage this summer is open for booking: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home> Please pray about whether there are people you might encourage to go on the pilgrimage.

March Jubilarians

Deirdre McPhillips, Richard Stanton, Tony Ballardie, Sanila Chacko, Virginia Monteith, Martin Naughalty, Pat Blades, George Cooke, Jonathan Harris, Agnes Dunwoodie, Rosie Gedge-Gibson, Sheila Nicholas, Maura Deacon. Suzanne Naughalty, Margaret Fleming, Win Browne, Helen Paice, Caroline Thomas, Rosemary Cresswell and Patricia Morton.

Centenary Events

The programme for the Centenary can be found on the Parish Website under News & Events—Upcoming Events.

Sacred Paschal Triduum Our Lady of Lourdes

Maundy Thursday:

7pm Mass, with night prayer of the Church at 9.45pm. (Please note change of time)

Good Friday:

10 am Family Stations of the Cross

3pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion.

Easter Vigil Mass:

8.30pm (followed by refreshments in the hall)

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Sunday 19th March — FOURTH 'Laetare' SUNDAY OF LENT

6.00 pm (Sat)	SA	All Parishioners
9.00am	ST	
11.00 am	OLL	Richard Assender RIP
11.30am	HX	

Monday 20th March — St Joseph

9.30am	HX	
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Tuesday 21st March — Tuesday of the Fourth Week in Lent

9.30am	HX	
10am	SA	

Wednesday 22nd March — Wednesday of the Fourth Week in Lent

9.30am	HX	
10am	ST	NO MASS

Thursday 23rd March — Thursday of the Fourth Week in Lent

9.30am	HX	
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Friday 24th March — Friday of the Fourth Week in Lent

9.30am	HX	
10.00am	OLL	
7pm	OLL	Stations of the Cross

Saturday 25th March — The Annunciation of the Lord

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Sunday 26th March — FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

6.00pm (Sat)	SA	
9.00am	ST	
11.00 am	OLL	Marie Glover & Family Ints
11.30am	HX	

Confessions during Lent Saturdays 11am to 12 noon

A Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them
and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom
to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people
of Ukraine
and for all the world.

Amen.

Please pray for:

The sick: Ian Learmonth, Hazel O'Flynn, Fr Stephen Hardaker, Chris Hill, Joan Shaw, Abigail Stafford Johnson, Livy Miller, Louise Reeve, Patricia Reidy, Linda Donald, Tish Watkinson, Liz Jupp, Jo Allen, Jane Adolph, Carmel & Roland Murray, Teresa Marshall, Alberto Costantini, Sebastian Codlin, Thompson and Betty Harding.

The Deceased: Pauline McCausland, Sister Mary Christina Mullins, Patrick Power, Olivia Higgs, Magdalena Gertum Hern, Kitty Berneider, Charles Jury and Amy Maud O'Mara.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling
breast.

COLLECT

O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a
wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel.
The Lord said to Samuel: "Fill your horn
with oil and go. I am sending you to
Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen
myself a king among his sons." When
Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab
and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed
one stands there before him," but the
Lord said to Samuel, "Take no notice of
his appearance or his height for I have
rejected him; God does not see as man
sees; man looks at appearances but the
Lord looks at the heart." Jesse presented
his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel
said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen
these." He then answered, "Are these all
the sons you have?" He answered, "There
is still one left, the youngest; he is out
looking after the sheep." Then Samuel
said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not
sit down to eat until he comes." Jesse had
him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion,
with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The
Lord said, "Come, anoint him, for this is
the one." At this, Samuel took the horn of
oil and anointed him where he stood with
his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord
seized on David and stayed with him from
that day on.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 22

Response:

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your
staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)

3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians.

You were darkness once, but now you
are light in the Lord; be like children of
light, for the effects of the light are seen
in complete goodness and right living and
truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants
of you, having nothing to do with the futile
works of darkness but exposing them by
contrast. The things which are done in
secret are things that people are ashamed
even to speak of; but anything exposed by
the light will be illuminated and anything
illuminated turns into light. That is why it
is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word
of God!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the
light of life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word
of God!**

GOSPEL John 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38

(a longer version may be read: John 9:1-41)
A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who
had been blind from birth. He spat on the
ground, made a paste with the spittle, put
this over the eyes of the blind man and
said to him, "Go and wash in the Pool
of Siloam" (a name that means "sent").
So the blind man went off and washed
himself, and came away with his sight
restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier
had seen him begging said, "Isn't this
the man who used to sit and beg?" Some
said, "Yes, it is the same one." Others
said, "No, he only looks like him." The
man himself said, "I am the man."

They brought the man who had been
blind to the Pharisees. It had been a
sabbath day when Jesus made the paste
and opened the man's eyes, so when the
Pharisees asked him how he had come
to see, he said, "He put a paste on my
eyes, and I washed, and I can see." Then
some of the Pharisees said, "This man
cannot be from God: he does not keep
the sabbath." Others said, "How could
a sinner produce signs like this?" And

there was disagreement among them. So
they spoke to the blind man again, "What
have you to say about him yourself, now
that he has opened your eyes?" "He is a
prophet," replied the man.

"Are you trying to teach us," they
replied "and you a sinner through and
through, since you were born!" And they
drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away,
and when he found him he said to him,
"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
"Sir," the man replied "tell me who he is
so that I may believe in him." Jesus said,
"You are looking at him; he is speaking to
you." The man said, "Lord, I believe," and
worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord,**

(all bow during the next two lines)
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the
dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the
living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these
offerings,
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,
praying that we may both faithfully revere
them
and present them to you, as is fitting,
for the salvation of all the world.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Lord anointed my eyes: I went,
I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who
comes into this world,
illuminate our hearts, we pray,
with the splendour of your grace,
that we may always ponder
what is worthy and pleasing to your
majesty
and love you in all sincerity.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

