

HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS MONDAY MISSION

THIS WEEK'S WORD:

Based on John 9:1-41

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind... Jesus spat on the ground and made mud with the spittle; he rubbed it on the man's eyes and told him, "Go and wash your face in the Pool of Siloam." (This name means "Sent") So the man went, washed his face, and came back seeing. His neighbours, then, and the people who had seen him begging before this, asked, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "He is the one," but others said, "No he isn't; he just looks like him." So the man himself said, "I am the man."...

They took to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. The day that Jesus made the mud and cured him of his blindness was a Sabbath. The Pharisees, then, asked the man again how he had received his sight. He told them, "He put some mud on my eyes; I washed my face and now I can see." Some of the Pharisees said, "The man who did this cannot be from God, for he does not obey the Sabbath law." Others, however, said, "How could a man who is a sinner perform such miracles as these?" And there was division among them. So the Pharisees asked the man once more, "You say he cured you of your blindness - well, what do you say about him?" "He is a prophet," the man answered.

They answered, "You were born and brought up in sin - and you are trying to teach us?" And they expelled him from the synagogue. When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man answered, "Tell me who he is, sir, so that I can believe in him!" Jesus said to him, "You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now." "I believe, Lord!" the man said, and knelt down before Jesus.



REFLECT

Reflecting on healing is a great way to celebrate the joy of Laetare Sunday. On Laetare (from the Latin word "rejoice") Sunday, we break up the solemnness of Lent by looking forward in hope to the joy of Easter.

In the Gospel we hear about a man who is living in darkness, but who ends up living in the light because Jesus, the Light of world, opens his eyes. It is no one's fault that the man is blind. The fact that Jesus takes time to heal this man shows us that God wants us all to be well and able to enjoy life to the full. In the story of creation, God makes Adam out of mud and here Jesus uses mud to make a new man from the man born blind. Symbolic of baptism and recalling that last week we heard Jesus is the living water, the man is healed after washing in the water of the pool.

Matthew's Gospel uses the imagery of blindness and sight to talk about understanding. Our blindness is not just physical. So often we are blind to what matters in life. God can open our hearts and minds so that we see and understand what is important. Do we understand and appreciate the difference God's love can make in our lives? Meeting Jesus totally changes the man born blind. Are we changed by our friendship with Jesus? Would people we meet see any changes in us this Lent as we try to be more loving and more like Jesus? The man born blind was physically healed, do we need healing in some way? Jesus will mend our broken hearts and help us to be loving. We just need to trust Jesus, just like the blind man did.

LET US PRAY

Loving Lord,

I know you want us to be well and to be able to live life fully.

Continue your healing work in me and all my family and friends. May we always be ware of how fortunate we are to enjoy good health.

Bless us when we are ill and give us the light of hope.

Amen

MISSION

This week, remember the story of the man who was blind from birth. Jesus made mud, placed it on the man's eyes, and told him to wash in the pool. When he did, he could see! Jesus showed that God wants everyone to live in the light, to be healed, and to enjoy life fully. This week:

- **Be a Light Spotter:** Each day, look for one moment of kindness, love, or goodness. Write it down or draw it.
- **Open Your Eyes to Others:** Notice someone who might feel left out or sad. Say something kind or invite them to join in.
- **Mud & Water Reminder:** When you wash your hands or face this week, remember the blind man washing in the pool. Say quietly: "Jesus, help me see what matters."
- **Healing Hearts:** Think of one thing in your life that needs healing—maybe a friendship, a worry, or a bad habit. Ask Jesus to help you mend it.