



St Ninian's Parish House

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Sunday 20th March 2020 – 4th Sunday of Lent Year A

We will still email a “newsletter” each week with the Sunday Gospel.

Regular updates on what is happening in the diocese due to the coronavirus are being emailed to those who are on the parish distribution list (these are the emails which Rab Burnett sends). If you wish to receive the updates you will need to be on the Parish Distribution List, and you can join by emailing:

stniniantriduaana@gmail.com

SCIAF SUNDAY – *Who is my Neighbour?*

On this SCIAF Sunday please pray for women around the world. Today, we especially think of Angela, Joan and Sylvia who feature on the SCIAF WEE BOX this year. May their lives continue to inspire us in our fight against poverty. This year the SCIAF WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE Appeal has received UK Aid Match. This means that all public donations up until 20th May to the appeal will be doubled by the UK Government. Please consider donating what you would normally have placed in the second collection if you had been at Mass. Below is a link to SCIAF giving information on how you can donate.

<https://www.sciaf.org.uk/stories/457-respond-in-love-this-sunday>

One World Group

In these difficult times, when many of us need to self-isolate, the One World Group members will be praying the Rosary in their homes at 7.30 pm each Monday evening. Please join us.

Fresh Start – CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As you are aware, Fresh Start looks after those in need but following Government advice issued yesterday, we have taken the difficult decision to **STOP** accepting donations from members of the public and this includes our regular church collections. This is to minimise contact with others and to ensure donations are not being handled which may be carrying the virus.

As an organisation, we are going to strive to continue to deliver services as far as practicably possible and we are working with staff to come up with ideas on how to support people at this concerning time and will be sure to keep you updated. This may mean that we may have to purchase goods in order to continue to deliver our services so if members of the congregation would like to support us during this difficult time in a different way than donating goods, you can do so by donating to our Just Giving page instead – <https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/donate>

We are also aware that, as well as our clients, many of our volunteers and supporters also fall into the vulnerable category and as such we would like to offer our help and support to all of you too. If anyone is going to be self-isolating over the coming weeks/months and needs help with food shopping, picking up prescriptions or would just like to receive a friendly phone call then please don't hesitate to get in touch and myself or one of my colleagues would be more than happy to offer support where we can. We will keep in touch over the next few weeks and update you with any developments as they happen. Jen McQuistan, Corporate Partnership Co-ordinator, Fresh Start, 0131 476 7741 or

jen.mcquistan@freshstartweb.org.uk

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline

(24 hours): 0800 027 1234.

Safeguarding Contacts

<https://archedinburgh.org/administration/safeguarding>

Archdiocesan Safeguarding Advisor Mrs Angela Hughes 07903 619342

E: Angela.hughes@staned.org.uk

National Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Tina Campbell 0141 332 7177

E: tcampbell@scottishcatholicsafeguarding.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Contact is Fiona Tracey.

Newsletter

Any items by Wednesday midday please to Carol Mulvenna, work – 672 0134, home 672 1223, mobile 07762 924916, email cmulvenna@btinternet.com

If you know of anyone who would like the newsletter emailed to you each week, please let me know by emailing me as above.

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## Gospel, John 9:1-41

As he went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should have been born blind?'

'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be revealed in him. 'As long as day lasts we must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, 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' (the name means 'one who has been sent'). So he went off and washed and came back able to see.

His neighbours and the people who used to see him before (for he was a beggar) said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, but he looks just like him.' The man himself said, 'Yes, I am the one.' So they said to him, 'Then how is it that your eyes were opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go off and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I gained my sight.' They asked, 'Where is he?' He answered, 'I don't know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 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 gained his sight, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'That man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How can a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was division 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?' The man answered, 'He is a prophet.'

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind without first sending for the parents of the man who had gained his sight and asking them, 'Is this man really the son of yours who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but how he can see, we don't know, nor who opened his eyes. Ask him. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to ban from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews sent for the man again and said to him, 'Give glory to God! We are satisfied that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'Whether he is a sinner I don't know; all I know is that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples yourselves?' At this they hurled abuse at him, 'It is you who are his disciple, we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'That is just what is so amazing! You don't know where he comes from and he has opened

my eyes! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to people who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of someone born blind; if this man were not from God, he wouldn't have been able to do anything.' They retorted, 'Are you trying to teach us, and you a sinner through and through ever since you were born!' And they ejected him.

Jesus heard they had ejected him, 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 have seen him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and worshipped him. Jesus said: It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight may become blind. Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'So we are blind, are we?' Jesus replied: If you were blind, you would not be guilty, but since you say, 'We can see,' your guilt remains.

### ***Reflecting on Our Faith – Source of Light***

Adults: What are you doing in your life right now to move toward light rather than darkness?

Children: How can you let the light of your faith in Jesus shine for others to see?

Just a thought: When you're blind, it's hard to imagine what sights you're missing.

Reflecting on the gospel might help you to see more clearly what God needs from you in serving the cluster.

### **Preparing for next week's gospel: John 11:1-45 *The raising of Lazarus***

#### **Reflecting on our Faith during this week: *Life everlasting***

Adults: Christ calls us from death to new life. To what new life are you being called during this Lent?

Children: How does Jesus help you do what is good and avoid what is not?

Just a thought: Picture Lazarus' resurrection party – faces full of joy and eyes wet with gratitude – a snapshot of the Kingdom Jesus talks about. What can I do to make Lent a gateway towards building that Kingdom?