

Parish News

Coronavirus

As you will probably know, all public Masses have been suspended until further notice. This is a sad time for me, for you, and for the whole Church. Although there are times when public Mass will have been suspended in past years, I have not known of it in my lifetime, and I would guess that you will be the same.

Please be assured that I offer Mass for you every day

Self-Isolation

There may be parishioners, or others, who will self-isolate over the next few weeks. It might be a good idea to have a number of parishioners ready to help with delivering food and other essential items. If you would like to help with this, please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

If you are self-isolating, please do phone me and let me know.

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Training, which had been planned for the next few weeks has been cancelled.

Website

I am trying to get the hang of putting a talk onto our website. Please be patient as I try to master the technology.

You can access this, and much more, at our website:

<https://www.catholicchurchglencoe.org.uk>

It may well be that this becomes our principle means of communication for the foreseeable future.

Collection

Taynuilt – we raised £111.14 of which £34.00 was Gift Aided, plus £125.00 from Direct Debits giving a total of £235.14.

Ballachulish – we raised £202.20 of which £81.00 was Gift Aided, plus £116.00 from Direct Debits, giving a total of £318.20. We also raised another £119.08 in credit.

Many thanks to you.

The Visitation, Taynuilt and St Dun's, Ballachulish & The Good Shepherd, Kinlochleven 22nd March 2020 – 4th Sunday of Lent (A)

Confession

Taynuilt and Ballachulish – I will make myself available at any time for those who wish the sacrament of confession.

Divine Office – Vol 2. Week 4 with proper of the season
Weekday readings: 4th Week of Lent

Please remember the sick of the parish in your prayers.

We remember all the faithful departed in our prayers. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.



EYE WITNESS

Jesus makes clay on the Sabbath, with his own spittle (what an earthy detail!). He sends the man who was born blind to wash in the “*Pool of Siloam.*”

The man comes back, now able to see, but Jesus had moved on. Where is he? The man admits, “I do not know.”

Neighbours wonder if sighted person could be that blind fellow who used to sit and beg? No, it cannot be him. But it looks like him. And so on.

Unbelieving Pharisees join in.

They quote the law,

“Thou shall keep the Sabbath holy.”

“This fellow tried to work a miracle on the Sabbath day and therefore he is a sinner and cannot be from God.”

“Therefore he could not possibly work a miracle.”

“If the man can now see, then he was never blind in the first place!”

An easy conclusion.

They summon this man’s parents, who say honestly that, in fact, their son had actually been blind from birth! Someone must have cured him! But the rulers are resolved not to recognize Jesus as a miracle worker. They bring the man back and ask a cynical question, as if they were believers: “How did he open your eyes?”

The man replied,

I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too? ([Gospel](#))

A tart and humorous reply. The Pharisees are of course outraged and they start to insult the formerly blind man. They have not listened and are themselves blinded by what might happen if they admit the truth—like losing their seat of power and influence.*

In our [Gospel](#) account, the truth was simple:

Jesus gave depth of sight to a man born blind.

Our lesson? That the works of God were made visible through this blind man. Jesus says that is the purpose of the blindness in the first place.

The man who was blind puts it this way:

“I do believe, Lord.”

It is not just his physical eyesight that was at stake. His heart had been healed.

You can see why this reading is cited during Lent. Easter will present us with the greatest healing in history, and we need to prepare for it. Jesus himself will suffer from the blindness of the world and will die. By his death the world will be healed from its hatred and fear, its suffering and evil, cured by an event that is as quiet as blindness. He will descend into the unseeing darkness of death and by doing this he will prove that *love is stronger than death.*

Who can see or understand such an event? Not you or me if we are like the story’s Pharisees. We will be distracted by our need for whatever is driving us at the moment: need to control others, to be in charge. What if they had seen this blind man through unclouded eyes? With wonder and awe? Couldn’t they have beheld the miracle?

Well, so can we.

Let us be like the blind man. Let us admit that we cannot see. Then pray to have our eyes opened.

Maybe we will glimpse God’s answer to blindness and suffering and sin!

John Foley, SJ

https://liturgy.slu.edu/4Lent032220/relections_foley.html