

Homily by Fr. Cal on the 4th Sunday of Lent

Good morning my dearly beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord? How are you doing today? Are you happy? I am happy to communicate with you here once again today as we are managing the crisis situation and trying to stay safe from this virus going around the world. God is our strength and in Him we trust!

I want to share with you a brief reflection from today's gospel reading. Today we are confronted with a unique passage and scenario in the gospel of John 9:1-41. It is a very long one and *remember the joke by one of my sacristans who told me, "Father Cal, you know that whenever the gospel is so long the homily should necessary be short"*. I will try to make it a short and spirit filled reflection. In the gospel reading, Jesus healed the man who was born blind on the sabbath, as a result, the Pharisees and the Scribe did not believe that Jesus was from God since he performed miracle on the sabbath day hence they refused to believe in him. They believed that it was a curse and a punishment from God to the family for a person to be born blind. However, Jesus decided to open the eyes of the man who was labelled 'sinner' so that those who claimed self righteous would repent and believe in Him.

The Pharisees and Scribes did everything possible to discredit the good work that Jesus did, yet many of the Jews believed in Jesus. When the Pharisees saw that the people were believing as a result of the miracle Jesus performed on the man who was born blind, they banned the blind man whom Jesus healed from their community and sent him away. Jesus sought for the man and found him, when He found him, He revealed Himself to him and the man believed and became Jesus disciple.

Some authors have said that God made this man blind so that he would take glory in his healing. Just as God allowed his Son to die for our sins so that He would take glory in His resurrection. This situation in which we are in today is not so different, some parishioners have asked me why did God allow this crisis to happen, why didn't Him not prevent it from happening? Honestly, I do not know, but I believed that He permitted the situation for His own Glory. Our hope is that we humans would come closer to God, seek for Him, and in His goodness and mercy, He would find us and make our faith in Him stronger and firm. May we through this situation and crisis, come to realise more our need for God for one another, and know that God is very close and near to us at all times. Despite our sins, our shortfalls, our mistakes, God graciously continues to bless us and heal us from our spiritual and physical blindness and infirmities. May He bless us with His presence during this period of seclusion and self isolation, strengthen us in body and in spirit, dispel in us the spirit of fear, anxiety, panic and unbelief. May He protect and preserve us through this crisis and always so that we all would come out of it stronger than before, we make these prayers through Christ our Lord, Amen! I love you All!!!

Please remember to join us in praying Psalm 91, every night.