

HOMILIES FROM THE HERMITAGE

(and other things)

On view of the current isolation and detachment from normal ministry, it seemed good to provide some other ways in which to keep in contact. There will be some 'thoughts' (not each day), some shared ideas and maybe some pleasantries.

CORONA 1

Fourth Sunday of Lent A

Light from darkness

These three Sundays of Lent this year cover the major themes of water, light and life.

Last weekend the story of the Samaritan woman introduced Jesus as giver of water of life.

This week the story of the blind man gives a vivid journey to light: Jesus gives us light.

Next week is the story of Lazarus bringing us back to life.

The blind man: John Chapter 9

The pattern in many items in John's Gospel give an event, a teaching, a profession of faith.

This story is particularly vivid in this way because it follows in dramatic activity.

Firstly Jesus gives eyesight to the blind man.

The man was dazzled and puzzled. He did not know who Jesus was. He was attacked by the religious authorities who challenged Jesus' ministry. The man's parents were drawn into the argument but they did not wish to be any part of it. The authorities persist and used silly and provocative arguments until the man fires back and stands firm on what he knew. 'All I know that once I was blind and that now I can see.' He still did not know who Jesus was. But Jesus finds him out and gives him the faith to realize that He is the Messiah 'And he worshipped him.'

From the giving of physical light, through argument and hassle, he finds his way to the light of faith. We have an inner light of faith which reflects the physical light of eyesight. For many of us the journey from inner darkness to inner light in Jesus can be long and troubled. We can easily lose the way and lose heart. Others will distract us and trouble us. The power of Jesus can carry us on this journey: indeed it is only the power of Jesus through His Holy Spirit enabled us to receive the light of faith.

Prayer: Jesus, through Your Spirit, we ask You to increase our faith with Your light.

Lord, we do believe, help our lack of faith.

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Given on the Feast of Our Holy Father St. Benedict: 21st March 2020

Happy Feast: happy Mothers Day: Christus vivit