

‘THE MAN BORN BLIND & OUR RESPONSE DURING THE PANDEMIC’  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 2020 ~ 22 March 2020



*Christ healing the Blind Man | Eustache Le Sueur c. 1616 – 55 | public domain*

### JESUS CARING FOR & HEALING THE BLIND MAN

Today’s Gospel shows us Jesus caring for and healing a man born blind.

In crises, there can be a tendency for some to blame God for our own inaction. We begin today’s Gospel sharing by remembering [Doctor Li Wenliang](#) in China. He had the courage to report the coronavirus in the earlier part of December 2019.

We remember how authorities opposed his reporting of the new SARS-like illness in some people. And the ways in which some authorities went to extraordinary lengths to deny the existence of this new illness.

*We remember how he later fell ill with coronavirus himself.  
We remember that he died from COVID-19.  
We remember him in prayer.*

Jesus reminds us that the truth will set us free.

Today’s Second reading is from the Letter to the Ephesians. It reminds us that things done in the secret, and exposed by the light, will be illuminated.

Concerning parish life during the COVID-19, some parish possibilities and completed actions are listed in our [parish letter, 21<sup>st</sup> March](#) and [parish letter audio](#). We expect that our Parish Mass will be streamed next weekend. Other links to Masses are on our parish website under the ABOUT tab called [OUR ONLINE PARISH](#).

I invite you to journey with today’s Gospel of the man born blind: John 9:1-41. It can be read at <https://universalis.com/Australia/20200322/mass.htm>

## REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- How do we respond today to the growing COVID-19 Pandemic, nearly 2, 000 years after Jesus healed the man born blind?
- What might be our blindness during the pandemic?  
The Pharisees in the Gospel had said *“Surely we are not blind, are we?”*
- In what ways do we learn from the man born blind’s advocacy for truth as he testified as to how Jesus healed him?
- What do we learn from the parents in the Gospel text?
- Do we ignore or deny reality like some of the Pharisees when they argued *“This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.”*  
They refused to acknowledge God’s healing on the Sabbath.
- As we read the Gospel passage, we see the man’s understanding of Jesus deepen –  
Moving from not understanding Jesus –  
to recognising Jesus as a prophet –  
to witnessing that Jesus is from God -  
to believing that Jesus is the Son of Man -  
to worshipping Jesus.
- As we remember our personal faith journey, how do we see Jesus as the Light?  
[*“the light of the world”*]
- What might be our own stages of growth in faith?

We remember that John’s Gospel uses less miracles but gives more detail.  
The detail is there so that we can pray and deepen in faith.

Let us now experience the journey of the man born blind as we pray the Gospel.  
And thank God.

Amen.

Fr Gerry

[Readings <https://universalis.com/Australia/20200322/mass.htm>]