



## *The Light of Faith*

In biblical times blindness was very common due to poor hygiene and lack of medical care. Today we have eliminated many of the diseases that cause blindness. And we have invented all kinds of devices to improve our sight.

Seeing is a wonderful gift that we should never take for granted. A woman tells how her life turned upside down when she lost her sight as a result of a car crash. Ever since she has inhabited a world of darkness. Several years later she barely remembers what her children look like. She says that she would have been happy if she was left with one eye.....enough to be able to tell night from day.

The miracle Jesus performed on Bartimaeus happens regularly in our hospitals. In May 2009 a woman who had been blind for 46 years had her sight partially restored by doctors in a Dublin hospital.

*Does this mean that the gospel story has no relevance for us?*

No. Because it is not really about physical seeing. Jesus did not come on earth to give us physical sight, but the kind of 'sight' that enables us to perceive heavenly realities. The gospel story is about how a man came to believe in Jesus.

His journey from blindness to sight symbolizes the journey from unbelief to faith, which is a journey from darkness to light. St Paul tells his converts at Ephesus: 'Once you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord' (Eph 5:8).

There is blindness worse than physical blindness - the blindness of unbelief. As sight is to blindness, so is faith to unbelief.

Bartimaeus was in darkness until he met Jesus. When he was cured he could have forgotten about Jesus and gone off to live his own life. Instead we are told that he *'followed Jesus along the road'* - this expression does not simply mean that he joined the crowd on the road to Jerusalem, but that he followed Jesus on the way of Christian discipleship. That is the climax of the story.

From being a mere believer Bartimaeus became a disciple. There is a big difference between the two. One could be a believer without it having any effect on one's life. But when one becomes a disciple, one tries to live as a Christian.

*(continued on the back page)*

## PARISH NEWS

### November Dead Lists

A wooden box has been placed in the church foyer.

### All Saints Day



**Friday 01 Nov ~**  
mass **9am & 6.30pm.**

### All Souls Day



There will be 2 additional masses on **Sat 02 Nov ~ 9am & 12pm.**  
**Important:** The names of the departed souls in our parish (Nov 2023 - Oct 2024) will be read at the **9am mass only.**

### Children's Liturgy

In 2025, the Children's Liturgy will run throughout the year - from Feb to mid-Dec (no school breaks).

## Bible Study Group

**".....for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."**



**(Luke 6:36-38)**

Our parish is starting a *Bible Study* class **Tues 29 Oct 5.30pm - 6.30pm** (classroom). Invitation is open to everyone who is keen on knowing and understanding the truth of God's Word. All you need to invest is your time. So come and join us on the journey of a lifetime. For more info please contact [Christopher Navarro 021 730 714](mailto:christopher.navarro@xtra.co.nz) or email [chrisner.navarro@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chrisner.navarro@xtra.co.nz)

## DIOCESE NEWS

### Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

Next meeting will be held on **Wed 30 Oct 7.30pm** St Thomas More Church, Glenfield. For more info please contact [Russell 022 034 5678](mailto:russell@joshuacatholicmen.org.nz).

### Candlelight Vigil for the Unborn

**Sunday 03 Nov 7.30pm** at Potter's Park, corner of Dominion & Balmoral Roads. Bring family and friends. Candles provided. For more info contact [Simon 021 400 729](mailto:simon@unborn.org.nz).

### Mass Times

Monday: 9am  
Tues/Wed/Thurs 6.30pm  
Wed: Novena 6pm  
Friday: 9am  
First Friday: 6.30pm  
Saturday: 5pm Vigil  
Sunday: 9am, 10.30am, 5pm

**Reconciliation by appointment.  
Please contact the parish office**

### October - Month of Holy Rosary

*“One who says his Rosary alone only gains the merit of one Rosary; but if he says it with thirty other people he gains the merit of thirty Rosaries. This is the law of public prayer. How profitable, how advantageous this is!”*

*St Louis Marie de Monfort.*

For the entire month of October, there will be Rosary prayer half an hour before each mass (excluding Sunday 10.30am masses).

**Weekdays Rosary** lead by parishioners available

**Weekends Rosary** lead by Legion of Mary members.

**If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, please email the parish office by Wednesday**

### Please pray for our sick parishioners:

Violet Furtado, Yvonne Sommers, Mary Holmes, Kanesi Masae, Ethan Peter Lelo, Rosalen Ahearn, Saulius David Balsys, Kalameli Tauta, Joan Unkovich, Pauline Caffell, Louisa Baptist, Robert Shearman, Siufaga Maileoi Lili, Lee Dunn, Alex Soniega, Aaron Ablan, Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea, Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover

### Last Week's Collection:

**House - \$1,611.30**

**Parish - \$2,303.60**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### Readings For The Upcoming Week

**Mon 28 Oct:** Eph 2:19-22

Lk 6:12-19 Ps 18:2-5

**Tue 29 Oct:** Eph 5:21-33

Lk 13:18-21 Ps 127:1-5

**Wed 30 Oct:** Eph 6:1-9

Lk 13:22-30 Ps 144:10-14

**Thu 31 Oct:** Eph 6:10-20

Lk 13:31-35 Ps 143:1-2, 9-10

**Fri 01 Nov:** 1 Jn 3:1-3

Mt 5:1-12 Ps 23:1-6

**Sat 02 Nov:** ALL SOULS DAY

**Sun 03 Nov:** Deut 6:2-6

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51

Heb 7:23-28

Mk 12:28-34

***(continued)***

We can make our own the heartfelt prayer of Bartimaeus - *Lord that I may see.*  
That we may see what is truly important in life and above all that we may see with the eyes of faith.

**Flor McCarthy SDB**

### **Pilgrimage Tour 2025**

Fr Chris Friel (Timaru) will lead this 17-Day tour of Portugal, Spain and France in June 2025. Early bird tickets on sale now and over the next two months. Sale will extend to early 2025.

For full details and itinerary please email Pilgrimage Tours (Auckland) at:

[info@travlink.co.nz](mailto:info@travlink.co.nz) or call [0800 99 7788](tel:0800997788)

### **Anniversary Mass 2025**

Registrations now open for **Coach Trip on 12 Jan 2025**. We are excited to invite you to join us on this 1-Day pilgrimage trip by coach to attend the Anniversary Mass at Totara Point. We will leave Pompallier Diocesan Centre at 6am and expect to arrive back by 7pm. Hydration and lunch will be provided - cost per person \$15. All welcome. For more info, email Deacon Steve Fraser:

[stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto:stephenf@cda.org.nz)

#### ***Priests Contacts:***

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