

## DAILY SCRIPTURE QUOTES

### Monday 23rd March

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

(Psalm 29)

### Tuesday 24th March

God is for us a refuge and strength, a helper close at hand, in time of distress: so we shall not fear though the earth should rock, though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea.

(Psalm 45)

### Wednesday 25th March    *The Annunciation of the Lord*

The Angel Gabriel said to Mary "Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you... Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end."... "I am the handmaid of the Lord," said Mary, "let what you have said be done to me."

(Luke 1: 26-38)

### Thursday 26th March

I will place my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people, says the Lord.

(Jeremiah 31: 33)

### Friday 27th March

The Lord is close to the broken hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him.

(Psalm 33)

### Saturday 28th March

I take pleasure, not in the death of a wicked man - it is the Lord who speaks - but in the turning back of a wicked man

(Ezekiel 33: 11)

# Opening Ourselves to God's word...

**This Sunday's Readings:**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT   Yr. A**  
**22nd March 2020**

*Coming Alive in Christ ~ Our Journey to Easter*



Today, we have the second of three Gospels from St John telling of people coming to life in Christ. Like last week, this Gospel was followed by the Prayer of Exorcism, prayed over those who were preparing to enter the Church at the Easter Vigil. Let us make this prayer our own this Lent:

***Father of mercy, you helped the man born blind to believe in your Son and through that faith to reach the light of your Kingdom.***

***Free your children from the falsehood that surround and blind us.***

***Let truth be the foundation of our lives.***

***May we live in your light for ever.***

***Lord Jesus, you are the true light that enlighten all people. By the Spirit of truth, free all who struggle under the yoke of sin. Grant that we may enjoy your light like the man whose sight you once restored, and inspire us to become fearless witnesses to the faith, for you are Lord for ever and ever.***

**1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7, 10-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these'. He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and a pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come anoint him for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood where he stood with his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

In today's First Reading, we continue listening to the history of salvation, with the election and anointing of David. David is the founder of the dynasty from which the Messiah, whom he prefigures, will be born. Notice how God chooses the weak, so that his own strength may be seen.

**Psalms 22** ~ *The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want*

**Ephesians 5: 8-14** In the early Church, baptism was known as '*Illumination*' and the following refrain would have been sung as the newly baptised emerged from the waters: "*Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you*". Paul reminds us, that through baptism, we are transformed into God's light; we are united with him, so we must live as children of light. We know what is pleasing to the Lord, every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth and we must live it in joy.

**John 9: 1-41 (extract)**

Jesus spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, "Go and wash in the pool of Siloam". So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored... Jesus said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Sir," the man replied, "tell me who he is so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You are looking at him; he is speaking to you." The man said, "Lord, I believe," and worshipped him.

John always refers to Jesus' miracles as 'signs', a word emphasizing the significance of the action rather than the marvel itself. The Healing of the man born blind is one of the seven 'signs' given by Jesus, revealing his divinity and announcing God's reign. It occupies a very important place in John's Gospel and there is much to reflect on. Use it in your prayer this coming week, and as you read it, ask the Lord to come close to you, and '*to open your eyes*' to his glory.

a/ Notice how Jesus meets the blind man as he left the Temple area, where he had celebrated the feast of Tabernacles; a Jewish feast that commemorated Israel's entry into the Promised Land, with a renewed yearning for the coming of the Messiah. It is in this context that Jesus reveals himself: "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life*".

b/ Notice also how the actual healing is very brief, just three verses, but it provokes a whole series of reactions and questions, during which Jesus is subjected to a trial and the man born blind gradually comes to faith: He doesn't ask for healing, it is God's Grace at work. Initially, he refuses to say anything, but then he acknowledges Jesus, first to be a prophet, then coming from God, and finally with the simple act of profession "*I believe*".

The man born blind becomes capable of sight, not only in the literal sense, but also in a spiritual sense, for he recognises the Lord.

