



DAY	FEAST	READINGS	TIME
Mon 23	4TH WEEK OF LENT Psalter Week IV St Turibius de Mogrovejo	Is 65, 17-21; Jn 4, 43-54.	Cancelled
Tue 24	4TH WEEK OF LENT Psalter Week IV	Ez 47, 1-9. 12; Jn 5, 1-16.	Cancelled
Wed 25	ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Is 7, 10-14; 8, 10; Hebr 10, 4-10 Lk 1, 26-38.	Cancelled
Thu 26	4TH WEEK OF LENT Psalter Week IV	Ex 32, 7-14; Jn 5, 31-47	Cancelled
Fri 27	4TH WEEK OF LENT Psalter Week IV	Wis 2, 1a. 12-22; Jn 7, 1-2. 10. 25-30.	Cancelled
Sat 28	4TH WEEK OF LENT Psalter Week IV	Jer 11, 18-20; Jn 7, 40-53.	Cancelled
Sun 29	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Psalter Week I	Ez 37, 12-14; Rom 8, 8-11. Jn 11, 1-45 (or 3-7. 17. 20 -27. 33b-45).	Cancelled

Discovering Christ

Do you know anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or do you want to revive your faith?

Join us at Discovering Christ!

Every Monday at 6:45 PM
From 27th April - 15th June 2020
with a retreat on Monday, 1st June 2020.

Each evening includes free dinners, engaging teachings and thought-provoking discussions.

Venue: Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Lot 2469,
No. 49. Jalan Lorong 1 Barat. Seria

For more information: Contact Fr. Robert (8637260)

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22nd March 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

Reading I: 1 Samuel 16: 1b. 6-7. 10-13a;
Responsorial Psalm: 22:1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6.
Reading II: Ephesians 5:8-14.
Gospel: John 9:1-41 (or 1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38).



Revised Roman Missal: 269 (Bahasa 318)

REFLECTION

On this morning in Lent we see before our eyes the mystery of the battle between light and darkness. Christ is “the Light that enlightens every man.” This story about the man blind from birth brings to mind our own conditions as baptized Christians. The pool of Siloam helps us to understand just how much we need to be purified.

1. Is this gospel all about miracle? No, out of the 41 verses that make up this passage, only a few are about the miracle. What John really wants to describe is the process of faith. In the beginning of the story, all are blind—even those who think they can see; in the end, only one is cured and the rest are still blind. The blind man steps into the light when he confesses his faith: “I believe in you, Lord!” On the other hand, the Jews are thrown into darkness when they condemn the Lord: “This Jesus is a sinner!” No matter who we are, we are all in a place of darkness and gloom: we have doubts, loneliness, and disorientation; we seek for an answer, but our ideas are still confused.

2. How hard it is for those who do not wish to see. How hard it is for those who think they can already see, those who want no other light but their own, those who don’t know how to doubt or question! They cannot see, they do not want to see, they do not allow themselves to see. How can they be enlightened by the Light of the world? Remember what Jesus said to the Pharisees: “If you were blind, you would not have sin; but since you say, ‘we see’, then your sin remains.” If we acknowledge our blindness, then Christ will enlighten us, little by little, until we reach the fullness of day in His divine presence.

3. We must travel a long road of purification. We must shine light on all the dark places within us, and we must “clean” them by contact with the word of Jesus. He is the Light that overcomes all darkness, He conquers death. He guides and directs us, He communicates the truth, and He leads us to salvation and joy. This is what we celebrate at Easter. The true Light is God himself, “unapproachable Light”, as we say in the 4th Eucharistic prayer. He is the “Sun that rises from on high.”

In our own selves we experience this battle between two forces: Light and darkness. The victory of one over the other depends on us. How do you live this battle between good and evil within you? Remember St Augustine: he had the same difficulties as you. He was fed up living in sin, and asked God, with humility: “Lord, never let darkness enter my heart.”

In this world there are men, women, and children who are bringers of light. Their very presence gives light to all those around them, even when they do not realize it. They love and they show this love with their lives. Be a person full of light, full of virtues and good works. If you do good, you will be exposed to less danger and the Light will fill you always, even in the moments of doubt. Fight, do battle without rest. This is the grace we ask for in this Mass. Amen. †

COVID-19 teaches us we are one human community

In the interview with “La Stampa”, published on Friday, Pope Francis speaks of the sorrow and pain that “everyone” is experiencing due to the coronavirus. The only way to survive this situation, he says, is by sticking together. The Pope invites us to live this moment “with penance, compassion and hope”. We need “humility”, he adds, “because too often we forget” there are dark times in life as well. “We think they can only happen to someone else. But these times are dark for everyone”, he says. Pope Francis explains that the season of Lent “trains us to show solidarity with others, especially those who suffer”.

The Pope emphasizes the importance of prayer, recalling how the Apostles turn to Jesus to save them during the storm (Mark 4:35-41). “Prayer helps us understand our vulnerability”, he says. “It is the cry of those who are sinking, who feel they are in danger and alone. And in a difficult, desperate situation, it is important to know that the Lord is there to cling to”.

Pope Francis makes no distinction between “believers and non-believers”. People are weeping because they are suffering, he says. “Everyone” is suffering. “We are all children before God”, he adds. The Pope then speaks of those who are dying alone and without the comfort of their families. He says he was struck by the story of an elderly woman who said her final goodbye to her loved ones over a phone belonging to one of the nurses. “The pain of those who have died without saying goodbye becomes a wound in the hearts of those who are left behind”, says Pope Francis. He thanks “all the nurses, doctors and volunteers who, despite their incredible exhaustion”, offer themselves, “with patience and kindness” to stand in for family members who cannot be there.

Pope Francis also addresses the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic for our future. The current crisis will help to remind us “once and for all, that humanity is a single community”, he says. It will teach us that “universal kinship” is important and critical. We should think about it like a “post-war” phenomenon, he says: “It will no longer be ‘them’. It will be ‘us’. Because we can only come out of this situation together”. Pope Francis concludes saying: “We will need to look even more closely at our roots: our grandparents, the elderly”. We will need “to build true kinship amongst us”.

Spiritual Communion

The Eucharist is true bread from heaven for our journey towards Eternal Life. When “it is not possible to receive sacramental communion, participation at Mass remains necessary, important, meaningful and fruitful. In such circumstances we recommend the practice of spiritual communion. Frequent spiritual communion keeps us close to Christ by sustaining and deepening our desire to receive Him. You may use the prayer by St. Alphonsus Liguori, or express these sentiments in your own words:

My Jesus, I believe You are truly present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable now to receive You Sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there, and I unite myself wholly to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Spiritual Communion is an expression of our love for God. How often do you express your love for God? As often as you wish. As often as you need God. As long as you feel you want to say a loving word to Jesus. In these troubled times when, because of the COVID-19, many of our contemporaries are concerned for the future, let us ask the Lord that through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, he may grant us renewed confidence, hope and peace in our hearts.

Prayer for God’s Mercy

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of good health and peace that we have enjoyed for so many years. As we find ourselves in this time of crisis today, we ask for your divine intervention and mercy to be upon each of us. Come and guide the minds of those working to discover a treatment to the COVID-19 virus. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, and clarity of mind, so that all peoples will be free from the threat of this ailment.

We also pray for the healthcare workers that are standing in the front line of this battle. Father, we thank you for their hearts of service, putting the needs of society before their own, generously responding to the cry of Your people. We ask that You will grant them strength and protection. As they give of themselves in selfless service, may You fill them with your Holy Spirit as they work to be Your healing hands and feet!

Father, we also surrender to You all those who have been afflicted with the virus. Grant them Your healing grace, merciful Father, so that they may recover swiftly and continue to be witnesses of Your love in their lives.

Mother Mary, we ask for your intercession in this great time of need. Cover each of us with your blue mantle of protection, so that we may be preserved in good health to continue to glorify your son, Jesus Christ. We make this prayer through Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.