



**St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



**Fourth Sunday of LENT
March 19, 2023**

Sight “Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom, to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas

READINGS

1st Reading **1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**

2nd Reading **Eph 5:8-14**

Gospel **Jn 9:1-41**

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Introduction: The fourth Sunday of Lent is known as “Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday,” expressing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord. Today's readings both remind us that it is God who gives us proper vision in body as well as in soul and instructs us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness.

Scripture lessons: By describing the anointing of David as the second king of Israel, the first reading, from the book of Samuel, illustrates how blind we are in our judgments and how much we need God's help. In the second reading, St.

Paul reminds Christians of their new responsibility as children of light *to live as children of the light, producing every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.*” Presenting the miracle of Jesus’ giving of sight to a blind man, today’s Gospel, teaches us the necessity of opening the eyes of the mind by faith, and warns us that those who pretend to see the truth are often blind, while those who acknowledge their blindness are given clear vision. In this episode, the most unlikely person, namely the blind man, receives the light of faith in Jesus, while the religion-oriented, law-educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind. To live as a Christian is to see, to have clear vision about God, about ourselves and about others. Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices should serve to heal our spiritual blindness so that we can look into the hearts of others and love them as children of God, our own brothers and sisters.

LENT-Pope Benedict XVI-2013

"Believing in charity calls forth charity"

“We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us” (1 Jn 4:16)

(....Continue) Essentially, everything proceeds from Love and tends towards Love. God’s gratuitous love is made known to us through the proclamation of the Gospel. If we welcome it with faith, we receive the first and indispensable contact with the Divine, capable of making us “fall in love with Love”, and then we dwell within this Love, we grow in it and we joyfully communicate it to others.

Concerning the relationship between faith and works of charity, there is a passage in the *Letter to the Ephesians* which provides perhaps the best account of the link between the two: “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God; not because of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (2:8-10). It can be seen here that the entire redemptive initiative comes from God, from his grace, from his forgiveness received in faith; but this initiative, far from limiting our freedom and our responsibility, is actually what makes them authentic and directs them towards works of charity. These are not primarily the result of human effort, in which to take pride, but they are born of faith and they flow from the grace that God gives in abundance. Faith without works is like a tree without fruit: the two virtues imply one another. Lent invites us, through the traditional practices of the Christian life, to nourish our faith by careful and extended listening to the word of God and by receiving the

sacraments, and at the same time to grow in charity and in love for God and neighbour, not least through the specific practices of fasting, penance and almsgiving.

4. Priority of faith, primacy of charity

Like any gift of God, faith and charity have their origin in the action of one and the same Holy Spirit (cf.

1 Cor 13), the Spirit within us that cries out “Abba, Father” (*Gal 4:6*), and makes us say: “Jesus is Lord!” (*1 Cor 12:3*) and “Maranatha!” (*1 Cor 16:22; Rev 22:20*).

Faith, as gift and response, causes us to know the truth of Christ as Love incarnate and crucified, as full and perfect obedience to the Father’s will and infinite divine mercy towards neighbour; faith implants in hearts and minds the firm conviction that only this Love is able to conquer evil and death. Faith invites us to look towards the future with the virtue of hope, in the confident expectation that the victory of Christ’s love will come to its fullness. For its part, charity ushers us into the love of God manifested in Christ and joins us in a personal and existential way to the total and unconditional self-giving of Jesus to the Father and to his brothers and sisters. By filling our hearts with his love, the Holy Spirit makes us sharers in Jesus’ filial devotion to God and fraternal devotion to every man (cf. *Rom 5:5*).

(will Continue)

MARCH 11/12 COLLECTIONS

Gift Aid collection	45
Loose cash	56.54
Total	101.5

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

Please Pray for our Sick

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE APRIL 2-9

1. April-3 PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

April-2 Vigil Mass Evening 4 pm

April-3 Sunday Mass 10 am

2. April-6 Holy Thu. Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm

3. April-7 Good Friday Retreat 10 am-3 pm

Stations of the Cross 3 pm

Passion Liturgy 5 pm

4. April 8 Easter Vigil 8:30 pm

April 9 Easter Sunday 10 am

ANNIVERSARIES (March 19-25)

Kathleen Jones, '79: Phil & Doug Sides, Benedykt Guzowski,
Lavinia Adamson, '04, Mary Bartlett, Sr Bernadette Steele, '07,
Catherine McManus, '80:, Robert Tudor Davies, '90: Sr. Marie
Shannon,, John Hughes, 2022, Linda Winnard, 2020

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>

Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com

Phone: 01352 711053, **0741-749-4277**

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