

Week 4 – Blindness

Reading – John 9: 1-41

“There’s none so blind,” they say,
“as those who will not see.”

The man you cured of blindness, Lord,
was then able to see and believe,
while those who would not believe,
would not let themselves see either.

Where am I in this story, Lord?

If I were blind, it would be easy

for I could ask you to heal me.

I think I see but do I see truly?

Do I see you in every face I encounter?

Do I see your glory reflected all around?

Do I see your love deep in the heart of me?

Lord, open my eyes to see you,

to see your glory, to see your love

in all the places you are.

Help me to believe.

Merciful Lord,

you know our struggle to serve you:

when sin spoils our lives

and overshadows our hearts,

come to our aid

and turn us back to you again;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Beacon Benefice

Prayer

Lent 2017

Those of you who use the prayer Diary each month will remember that in Advent we did something different, more reflective.

Well, we’re doing the same for Lent with a theme for each week based on the Gospel reading for the Sunday at the start of that week. We’ve given you the readings so you can refer to them through the week.

There’s also a short reflection based on the theme of the week. and we’ve also printed the Collect for that week which you might like to use during your own prayer time.

As in Advent, we hope you’ll also continue to pray for people and situations in our world alongside reflecting on these themes as we travel through Lent together. *Rev Mike*

Beacon Prayer

3 rd March	Painswick
10 th March	Pitchcombe
17 th March	Edge
24 th March	Harescombe
31 st March	Brookthorpe

7 th April	Cranham
14 th Apr.	<i>no Beacon Prayer</i>
21 st Apr.	<i>no Beacon Prayer</i>
28 th April	Pitchcombe

Sometimes there is no Beacon Prayer because of other events happening.

Sometimes Rev Mike cannot come along to lead Beacon Prayer because he is involved elsewhere. But that need not stop Beacon Prayer going ahead. Each Church now has a file containing what is needed apart from a bible and the current Beacon Light and Prayer Diary.

Week 1 – Temptations

Reading – Matthew 4: 1-11

Lead us not into temptation.
We say it every week, if not more often.
But, Lord, I don't need leading;
I find my own way there – often.
And that's the problem, isn't it; my own way?
Sometimes the things
that pull me away from you
are all around me, sights, sounds and smells
but, if I'm honest (and I do try),
it's the ideas, the wondering, the excitement
that get to me
– and they're all inside me, not outside.
Call me, Lord, call me once again
and I will turn, will come back to you.
It's not blinkers I need, Lord, for
they would stop me seeing you in the world,
but help me remember
that ideas, wonder and excitement
come from you, are your gifts to me
and they are all I really need.

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled
with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days
to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Week 2 – Born Again

Reading – John 3: 1-17

Nicodemus couldn't get it,
"Can someone get back
into their mother's womb?"
But a birth is a beginning, a new life
and you offer us that all the time,
don't you, Lord?
"Come and see," you call,
"Walk with me," you say,
"I love you," you whisper.
And every time we come, walk or respond,
we truly are born again into your new life.
But we have to listen first,
to hear your voice;
for we can drown that out so easily
with our thoughts, our worries
and our wants.
Tune my ears, Lord, to hear you,
tune my heart, Lord, to accept you
but don't just tune my life, Lord,
transform it, through a new birth,
that I may be a citizen of your kingdom.

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter
into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Week 3 – Challenging People

Reading – John 4: 5-42

Didn't she go on, Lord?
That woman you met by the well;
questioning everything you said,
and always wanting more.
But you were so gentle with her.
I'm not certain I've got the patience, Lord.
I don't like to be challenged
but you keep asking me,
"Why in heaven's name not?"
Are you saying it's good
to challenge people?
Should I be challenging you, Lord?
I never have,
even when it all went so wrong
and I felt crushed and abandoned!
Even now,
I sometimes want to scream at you.
Are you saying that's OK, Lord?
Because, if it is, I'll do it very gently
and I'll try and be gentle
with those challenging people too.

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection
we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.