

Reflection Mark 10.46-52

“What do you want?” asks Jesus of the blind Bartimaeus, and he replies, “That I may see again”. The implication is that he has once seen clearly and now doesn't, and he wants to go back to how he was before. This reminds me of the writing of Oliver Sacks (*The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat* and *Awakenings*) who said of many patients who came to him with neurological disorders, that they simply wanted to be as they were before. The sadness or tragedy is that it's impossible.

That rings bells for me in terms of where we are now – I would rather go back to how it was before Covid, and imagine that it was all an unpleasant dream, from which I am now waking up. I would imagine that some of you are also thinking like that.

But we also know that we can't and we won't; and thinking a bit more deeply, we also realise that to wish away where we are now is neither to appreciate the huge losses that people have endured, nor the generosity, nor some of the gains.

Jesus grants Bartimaeus the return of his sight. For us it's more of a metaphor – the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus gives us a different kind of sight, a new way of seeing things, a new way of finding meaning in life. And that includes finding meaning in the life of on-going Covid.

Fr David



Codes for the Zoom worship at 5pm on the **FIRST Sunday of each month**

(7th November)

Meeting ID: 817 4532 4542

Passcode: 574847

Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237,
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 31.10.2021 All Saints Sunday

SERVICES 10.30am in Church

READINGS OT Wisdom 3: 1-9
NT Revelation 21: 1-6a
GOSPEL John 11: 32-44



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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 24th October 2021

Last Sunday of Trinity

10.30am Mass in Church and Holy Baptism

It looks like the **Winter Market** in the Church, Hall and Churchyard is going ahead, as I've seen posters up in Cowick Street. Please make a note of the date Saturday 20 November, 10-4. Thanks for volunteers for stalls; if there any more please see Judith Southam.

We're looking forward to the **season of remembrance** shortly – saints, souls and those who have died in warfare. We are planning to use last year's All Souls list plus the names of those who have had funerals with St Thomas in the past 12 months. A thorough revision of that list will happen next year. If you want to check a name or include a new one, please see me asap.

There is also the question of **how long we stay in Church** for the winter. Please give this some prayerful reflection and speak to me if you wish.

Fr David



Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Jeremiah 31.7–9

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hebrews 7.23–28

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the

people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

Mark 10.46–52

They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Post Communion

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is still advised by the Church of England. On most Sundays you can also be seated with some social distancing if you wish.

Coffee and tea will be offered after the 10.30am Mass. It will be served in the Hall. **There are gaps in the rota. Volunteers are urgently required. No helpers, no refreshments!**

Knit and Natter October 2021 We shall meet as follows this month: Thursdays 14th, 21st and 28th at 19 Maple Road. Details as usual from Jenny on 01392 498725

House Group. Tuesdays at 7.30pm. We are comparing other religious faiths. Zoom details from Ian Totterdell. Next **meeting on Tues 2nd November**, new people very welcome!

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Choir Vestry via the Tower door. Please continue to be generous.

Thank you for your generosity at the Harvest Festival in terms of the Community Larder and the toilet twinning. We raised enough money to twin all three of our toilets. Ian Totterdell.

Young at Hearts Club 27th October at 2pm in the Hall—Quiz.

