



Children's liturgy – Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus helped a blind man called Bartimaeus to see again. Sometimes we see things that are not fair or right, but it can be a lot harder to see how to change these things. Let's think about how we can help everyone to see what we can do to make the world a fairer place.

Opening prayer: God of healing power, help us to see what is not right or fair in our world. Open our eyes to see the changes we can make so that everyone can have hope for a fairer future. Amen.

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho, and as Jesus was leaving with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus! Son of David! Take pity on me!"

Many of the people scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, take pity on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called the blind man. "Cheer up!" they said. "Get up, he is calling you."

He threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

"Teacher," the blind man answered, "I want to see again."

"Go," Jesus told him, "your faith has made you well."

At once he was able to see and followed Jesus on the road.

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

Jesus was leaving a town called Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd was following him. A blind man called Bartimaeus asked Jesus for healing, and Jesus agreed.

Why did Jesus agree? It was not just because Jesus was kind, but also because he could see that Bartimaeus really believed in him.

How do you think Bartimaeus must have felt to be able to see again?

I imagine he was so happy, joyful, and amazed at all the colours and sights that he could see around him.

For those of us who are not blind or visually impaired, we might take our gift of sight for granted. We might not realise just how wonderful the trees, birds, flowers and people we see are, because we see them every day.

We might also have times when we try to ignore things that we see, or we pretend that we can't see them. For instance, we might pretend not to see the toys we have left scattered all over the floor when we are asked to tidy up. We might ignore the homeless person that we see asking for money.

Can you think of a time when you ignored something or pretended not to see it?

Why do you think that sometimes we do this?

We might be afraid to step in between two people who are fighting, so we pretend not to see it. We might be feeling lazy and not want to tidy up, so we ignore the toys. Even though we know what the right thing to do is.

Sometimes we know what we have seen isn't fair or right, but we don't know what to do about it. It can be easier to pretend that we haven't seen the problem than to work out what to do to try to make it better.

But just because we pretend the problem isn't there, does that really mean that it has gone away? So what do you think we should try to do?

Can you think of some big problems that you can see in our world that aren't fair?

Do you think it's fair that not everyone has enough food to eat or clean water to drink?

Do you think it's fair that some people have to leave their homes and things behind to try and find somewhere safe to live?

Do you think it's fair that many people, especially the poorest people, are already facing damage to their homes and crops because of the climate crisis?

These things are not fair, but we can all play a part in trying to build a fairer world. We can try not to waste food or water and call on others to do the same. We can care for our planet and the people around us.

We can try to make sure that our government and other world leaders see that we care about the planet. That we want them to make a change to care for our world and all the living things in it, so that the earth, the home we all live in, can be protected now and in the future.

We can tell others and help them to see that there is a problem, but also that there are ways to make our world a fairer place. If we all work together, you and me, world leaders and big businesses, and people from all around the world, we will see what difference we can really make.

What will you do if you see something this week that you know is unfair?

Activity

Colour in the accompanying illustration and do the “spot the difference”. Which picture shows something unfair and which shows a possible solution? Draw on the back what change you would like to see in the world to make it a fairer place for all people to live.

Remember to share all that you have read with the people at home during the week and look out for anything that is unfair. If you do see anything that isn't right, can you see a way to make the situation fairer and try to your best to do so?

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