

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

THEME: **ONLY GOD CAN GIVE US PROPER VISION IN BODY AND IN SPIRIT**

The fourth Sunday of Lent is generally known as “Laetare Sunday”, expressing the Church’s joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Today’s readings remind us that only God can give us proper vision in body as well as in spirit. They instruct us to be constantly on guard against spiritual blindness.

Our first reading from the book of Samuel in describing the anointing of David shows how blind we can be in our judgments and how much we need God’s help in our decision making.

St. Paul in our second reading reminds us that as Christians we have an important responsibility of living as children of light, producing every kind of goodness, righteousness and truth.

Today’s Gospel reading tells us the story of how Jesus restored sight to a blind man. This Gospel passage teaches us the necessity of opening the eyes of our 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 Gospel episode, the most unlikely person, the blind man, receives the light of faith in Jesus, while the religion-oriented and law-educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind. To live as a Christian is to have a clear vision about God, about ourselves and about others.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, we all have blind-spots, it may be in our families, our parenting, our work habits, and our personalities. We often wish to remain in the dark, preferring darkness to light.

Like the blind man in today’s Gospel reading, Jesus wants to heal our spiritual blindness and our blind-spots. We need to ask him to remove the root cause of our blindness which includes selfishness, greed, anger, hatred, unforgiveness, prejudice, jealousy, addiction to evil habits and hardness of heart.

Let us pray that through our Lenten observance and prayers Jesus will heal our spiritual blindness so that we can see clearly what God is expecting from us and also love others as children of God, our brothers and sisters.