

## **4th Sunday of Lent – Rejoicing Sunday**

So what are we supposed to be rejoicing?

We are rejoicing that God is walking with us in all aspects of our life – in our joys, in our hopes, in our worries, in our darkness and fears, in our hurtings and woundedness. The prophet Isaiah and St Peter in particular reminds that, 'By His Wounds you have been healed,' so it is through the love of Jesus for you and me seen through His preaching and healing, but especially through His ultimate gift of Love from the Cross, that we are brought to hope and joy.

We know that God wants to pour love and acceptance into our lives, no matter who we are or what we have to offer. We see this amazing Love when God speaks to Samuel about choosing David to become the king of Israel when He says, 'God does not see as man sees, man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' David was quite a weak looking boy compared to his stronger brothers, and yet God chose David for He saw beyond outward appearances. Why would we not want to rejoice at being loved for just who we are?

Again in our Gospel we see Jesus bringing light and hope to the man that was born blind. We too seem to be walking in times of shadow or darkness, but we know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Light – it He who will bring ultimate JOY, HOPE, LOVE into our lives. The world as a whole is now having its eyes open to the need to see each other not with selfish eyes, but with the eyes of Christ, so that we too may not so much look at appearances but look as God does at the heart.

It is by looking at the heart of ourselves and the heart of humanity – in our Christian language to look at the hearts of the little bodies of Christ through the eyes of Christ – and it is then that we will see the real beauty of ourselves and each other and of creation. It is then in a new and powerful we will turn to others and be a real source of help and care for the Body of Christ – you and me. Why would we not want to rejoice at seeing BEAUTY in each other and in humanity and the world.

*With the eyes and heart of God let us pray for those in our lives.*

*Let us pray for Mothers today.*

*Let us pray for the medical staff caring so amazingly for the poorly.*

*Let us pray for the sick.*

*Let us pray for the anxious and those who are worried.*

*Let us pray for our children.*

*Let us pray for the isolated.*

*Lord hear us.*