



# 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ord. Time, Yr B

## Lectio Divina

**Lectio:** Jesus has been very insistent on the need of his followers to serve one another freely out of love (last Sunday's text). This teaching was to prepare them to understand the Cross as the greatest act of service. Jesus was already going ahead of his disciples on the way to Jerusalem. Jesus had taken the disciples aside because they were fearful of what danger into which Jesus was walking. They heard his teaching about service but made no response. They probably were unconvinced of this new way of understanding greatness. They were still quite blind but did not know it!

► Jesus with his disciples and large crowd had walked a long way north to Jericho. They turned from Jericho towards Jerusalem, when they came upon a blind beggar sitting beside the road. They probably wanted to keep going and tried to stop him crying out to Jesus. But Jesus stopped and the man asked, what the disciples should have been asking, 'that I may see again'. And because of the man's faith, his sight was restored. Only then could he follow Jesus. When would the disciples have enough faith and understanding (sight) to commit to following Jesus? Jesus was confident to go to his Cross; though it would be most painful, he knew it would bring new life to the world. When would the disciples be confident to face their crosses, their 'baptism', as Jesus described it in last Sunday's text?

Soon Jesus would triumphantly enter Jerusalem (Mk 11:1-10 following directly after our text). Would the disciples be acclaiming a Suffering Saviour or a political liberator? Would they see who Jesus truly is?

**Read:** Mark 10: 46 – 52

**Meditatio:** Where am I heading in life? Have I passed by people in need? Do I know any blind people? Have I cried out for help to Jesus? Do I persist in prayer? Have I thought that Jesus doesn't hear my prayers? For me is Jesus fully human – Jesus of Nazareth? For me, is Jesus the Promised One – Son of David? Do I think I need Jesus' help, his pity? In what ways am I blind? What do I do when people interrupt my plans? Have I sometimes quietened my conscience? Do I avoid challenges or face them as opportunities to show who I really am? Who have I been asked to bring to Jesus?<sup>1</sup> Do I encourage people to trust in Jesus? Have I had a moment when I knew Jesus was calling me?<sup>2</sup> What do I want Jesus to do for me? Do I look to Jesus as my teacher – my Rabbuni, my Master? Have I ever lost faith and needed 'to see again'? How deep is my faith, in Jesus, in that he can help me? Can I see clearly what I must do to follow Jesus? Can I see clearly the way/road to take as a follower of Jesus?

**Oratio:** Pray for deeper faith in Jesus. Pray that we can see and understand the way of the Cross. Pray that the needy will be helped and not passed by. Pray for all who join together to help, give a hand up to those in need e.g. St VdeP, service clubs etc.. Pray for those who are blind, may they find the supports they need to live a full life. Pray for all who care for the blind. Pray that we will not be blind to those in need nor to our own needs. Pray for courage to face up to the challenges of life. Pray that we will help others to find Jesus in their lives. Pray that we will hear when Jesus is calling us and respond generously. Pray for vocations. Pray that we will heed Jesus' teachings. Pray that we will be faithful followers of Jesus.

**Contemplatio** – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

**After your prayer** – Trust that Jesus is always there to help you.

*✍ Fr Joe*

## **Mark 10: 46 – 52**

**As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road.**

**When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, ‘Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.’ And many of them scolded him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, ‘Son of David, have pity on me.’**

**Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him here.’ So they called the blind man, ‘Courage,’ they said, ‘get up; he is calling you.’ So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ ‘Rabbuni,’ the blind man said to him, ‘Master, let me see again.’**

**Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has saved you.’ And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.**

### **Notes:**

**1** e.g. to bring children to baptism and faith, to bring the sick and elderly to Anointing, to bring the needy to those who can help – StVdeP, to bring seekers to join RCIA, to bring the ‘lost’ back to practice of their faith, etc., etc.. Jesus is present in those who care/serve as well as in the Sacraments!

**2** Jesus may be calling me: to do something for another, to make a change in my life, to trust him in a time of difficulty, to choose a way of life e.g. to priesthood or religious life, to stop and help someone, to encourage someone, etc., etc..