



The Path to Faith

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The story of blind Bartimaeus is an illustration of how we come to be people of faith. Like Bartimaeus, we may find ourselves helpless and on the side of life's road as we watch the world go by. And like him, we too then turn to God for help. Just as Jesus called Bartimaeus, we may sense that God is calling us to trust and surrender to his vision of life for us. Throwing aside the cloak that he would use to gather alms by the roadside, Bartimaeus comes to Jesus. That simple action displays his willingness to leave his old way of life behind in order to follow Jesus.

This is how we come to faith—we are given a glimpse of life from God's perspective and must trust

enough to cooperate with whatever God may bring our way. Such pivotal moments in life may come with the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, or the loss of a job, when we need to trust that there is more to life in what lies ahead. Or it may come in those times when we need to learn how to cope with a lifelong illness, a failed dream, or growing old. It's all about how we come to faith—by trusting that God will bring us to new life, even though we may be blind to the ways he will bring it about. ✱

Reflect

Have you ever experienced a hard ending that turned into a good beginning?



**Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."
So they called the blind man,
saying to him, "Take courage;
get up, he is calling you."**

MARK 10:49



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

53 South Road, Paget PG 03 | P.O. Box HM 727, Hamilton HM CX

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley • Cell: 705 0236

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Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES...

OCTOBER 26/27th - THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Kathy Anderson EM: Sara Peniston
10:15AM Lector: Willie Forbes EM: Madelena Almeida
Collection: LaVerne Lau, Pat Robinson

NOVEMBER 2/3rd - THE THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Peter Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: LaVerne Lau
Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS...

OCTOBER 26/27th - THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Veronica & Herman Tucker & daughter, Marguerite Wong ++ Florence Johnson + (B'day)
10:15AM Deolinda & Manuel Pacheco, & Son Victor
For St. Michael's Parishioners (Pro Populo)

NOVEMBER 2/3rd - THE THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM For St. Michael's Parishioners (Pro Populo)
10:15AM In Loving Memory of Baby Chloe

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at

St. Theresa's - 7:30^{AM} Mon.-Fri.

St. Anthony's - 8:00^{AM} Tues.-Fri. | St. Patrick's - 8:00^{AM} Mon.-Fri..

ST. THERESA'S Daily Mass - 7:30am



OCTOBER 19/20th: Maintenance Collection: \$786.00
Mission Sunday Collection: \$618.00
Votives: \$24.00 Poor Box (SVDP): \$30.00

THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's

BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

YOUR Weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction is appreciated.

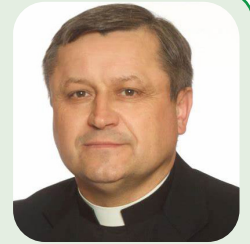
When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name and "collection" as your memo on your banking transaction.

EVENTS in our Catholic community...

- 2nd of November, Saturday: 11:00am - All Souls' Mass at St. Theresa's
- 12th of December, Thursday: 6:30pm - Stella Maris Parish Liturgical Feast
- 17th of December, Tuesday: 6:00pm - 8:00pm - Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Theresa's



Bishop's Corner...



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

I missed this topic when it was published in May. I have learned about it now and want to share it with you, as I find it is very important.

Better collaboration between schools and mental health providers, an emotional skills programme tailored for Bermuda, and the promotion of healthy behaviours are among priority areas being explored to address high levels of depression and anxiety symptoms among Bermuda's young people.

Daniel Cavanagh, a PhD student at the University of Melbourne, and Shawnee Basden, a Psychologist, conducted a survey in the last academic year involving seventy six per cent of middle and high school students. The study of students aged ten to nineteen showed that thirty one per cent of those surveyed had "moderate to severe" symptoms of depression or anxiety. This figure is about five to six per cent higher than global averages during the Pandemic. The study also identified an urgent need to remove the stigma attached to mental health as seventy three per cent of those who reported symptoms said they would try to deal with depression or social anxiety on their own. Of those, sixty two per cent cited being too embarrassed to get help as the main reason.



Mr. Cavanagh told The Royal Gazette: "A big recommendation for us is that we have to improve the social and emotional skills of young people to deal with modern-day stresses. We need a culturally adapted programme to the Bermuda context that teaches adolescents, and also educates parents, about mental health and how to develop certain social and emotional skills. The biggest thing was prevention efforts; we need to target the cause as opposed to targeting the symptoms. That's why a culturally adapted programme is a good idea as well as targeting healthy behaviours. It requires a whole community effort to really tackle the problem. Schools need to be working out how to promote healthy behaviours, service providers need to develop anti-stigma campaigns, the working group needs to assist in promoting healthy behaviours, and the research team needs to continue working in this context and help with the next phase."

Have a restful weekend and a blessed week!

+ *Wes*
Bishop Wes

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS



Jesus hears [Bartimaeus'] plea. When he goes to him... he takes time to listen. This is the first step in helping the journey of faith: listening. It is the apostolate of the ear... For Jesus, the cry of those pleading for help

is not a nuisance but a challenge. How important it is for us to listen to life!
HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 28, 2018



COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING – Jeremiah 31:7-9

Thus says the Lord: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations; proclaim your praise and say: The Lord has delivered his people, the remnant of Israel.

Behold, I will bring them back from the land of the north; I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst, the mothers and those with child; they shall return as an immense throng.

They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble. For I am a father to Israel, Ephraim is my first-born.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 126:1-6

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion,
we were like men dreaming.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with rejoicing. **R.**

Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad indeed. **R.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those that sow in tears
shall reap rejoicing. **R.**

Although they go forth weeping,
carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing,
carrying their sheaves. **R.**

SECOND READING – Hebrews 5:1-6

Brothers and sisters: Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him:

You are my son:

*this day I have begotten you;
just as he says in another place:*

You are a priest forever

according to the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life to light through the Gospel. Cf. 2 Tm 1:10

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL – Mark 10:46-52

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.” And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, “Son of David, have pity on me.” Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you.” He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man replied to him, “Master, I want to see.” Jesus told him, “Go your way; your faith has saved you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

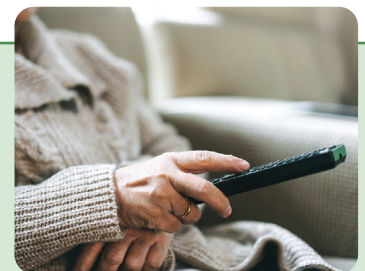
Dear Padre,

I am an eighty-year-old with painful knee replacements. Am I allowed to remain seated during Mass?

Also, at what age am I free to watch a televised Mass at home instead of going to Mass?

Your health condition permits you to remain seated while others in the congregation kneel or stand. Of primary importance is your valued presence, and your full, active participation with fellow members of your Catholic faith community. At Mass, “the faithful form a holy people...so that they may give thanks to God and offer the unblemished sacrificial Victim not only by means of the hands of the Priest but also together with him...” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 95).

However, if someone is incapable of attending Mass, then the obligation is abrogated, regardless of age. The Church allows a televised Mass primarily for people who are homebound, in hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons. “The televised Mass is never a substitute for the Church’s pastoral care for the sick in the form of visits by parish ministers who share the Scriptures and bring Communion, nor is it ever a substitute for the Sunday Mass celebrated within a parish faith community each week” (*Guidelines for Televising the Liturgy*, USCCB, 2014). If you are unable to be present at Mass, you have an opportunity to identify with a worshiping community, hear the word of God, be moved to expressions of praise and thanksgiving, and unite with Christ in spiritual communion. ✱



What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- Emmaus Bible Study reviews the three upcoming Sunday readings. TUESDAYS 3:00pm -4:30pm.
- St. Charles 'Going Deeper', Bible Study. As the name suggests this takes an in-depth look at the Sunday readings. For further information call Fr. Joe at 705:0236. THURSDAYS 3:00-4:30pm.

St THERESA'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am and WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS at 12:10pm.
- **Due to the 11:00am All Souls Mass on Saturday, 2nd of November,** at St. Theresa's Cathedral, the 9:00am Mass with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **will NOT** take place.

St PATRICK'S

- The Rosary is recited every, WEDNESDAY at 10:00am.
- The rosary followed by the PORTUGUESE mass every, WEDNESDAY at 7:00pm.
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the Rosary every, THURSDAY at 7:00pm.
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am.

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

St THERESA'S GIFT SHOP is open, TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS 10:00am-2:00pm.

THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

is requesting feedback from our parishioners as to whether their spiritual needs are being met? If you feel your needs are not being met, please contact your representative Pat Robinson at parobinson12@gmail.com or call 236-1880, with your comments. If you don't have access to a computer, you may wish to deposit your comments in a suggestion box on the altar rails in the church. The deadline for your suggestions are November 15, 2024.

Many thanks for your feedback.



ST JOSEPH'S ANNUAL FALL SUPPER

Will take place Friday, November, at 6:30pm at the Parish Centre, Tickets: \$25 Adults, \$13 Children (12 and Under. Call or email Liz Card lisatstjosephs@gmail.com or call 234-0872

AUTUMN DINNER WITH KARAOKE

St Theresa's will be holding an Autumn Dinner with Karaoke on Saturday 16th November, at 7:30pm at St Theresa's Hall. Tickets: Adults \$35 Children (5-12) \$25. If anyone is able to donate a prize for the raffle, it would be greatly appreciated. Please advise by 10th November..

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR FOOD DRIVE

During the 2024 Advent season, parishes throughout our Diocese are asked to support a "Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive". Each day of Advent, add one item, from a list that will be provided at a later date, to your collection box. Details to follow. Any questions can be forwarded to Elaine Kelly at ekelly@ibl.bm

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH BINGO

St. Patrick's Church will be holding a Soup (Red Bean) and Sandwiches Bingo on Sunday, November 3rd, from 3pm – 5pm in their Church Hall, in recognition National Sandwich Day! Tickets are \$10 which includes one bingo card. MC for the bingo will be Ronnie Lopes. Tickets will be on sale after weekend Masses from Parish Council Members.

Pastor's Points



Dear Parishioners,

The readings this week show life with God as a journey along "the way." In the Old Testament readings, "the way" is a journey home from exile in Babylon. God gathers his displaced people and brings them back to the land of Israel. It's a familiar road. The Jews first walked it weeping after Israel's defeat by Babylon. Now it is a path of joy and laughter as they set their hearts toward home.

As the Gospel reading indicates, early Christians sometimes referred to the lifelong journey of following Jesus as "the way." After the blind beggar Bartimaeus receives his sight again he follows Jesus "on the way."

When Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus has a simple answer: "I want to see." In Scripture, sight often has a double meaning. It means to see with one's physical eyes, but it also means to see with the heart and the mind - to perceive or understand. Bartimaeus receives both kinds of sight. He is no longer physically blind and does not need to beg on the side of the road anymore. But he also sees correctly that Jesus is the Son of God.

Just before Jesus heals Bartimaeus, he tells him, "Go your way: your faith has saved you." The same Greek word is used for "heal" and "save," and Jesus has done both: healed Bartimaeus and saved him. Instead of following Jesus' instructions to "Go your way," Bartimaeus does the right thing - he goes Jesus' way instead, taking up the role of the disciple by following Him.

This is a great example of "faith in action." Are you doing the same thing in your life by following Jesus the way Bartimaeus chose to do?

God bless and have courage in practicing your faith daily,

Fr. Joe Morley

Fr. Joe Morley, Pastor & Vicar General DOHB

Word of Life:

"The witness of our Blessed Mother [in the Gospel account of her visit to her pregnant cousin, Elizabeth,] invites us to become more aware of the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in our own parishes and communities. ...Mary's witness is an invitation to step out in love and compassion. It is a summons to make haste to help vulnerable women who may be isolated and alone."

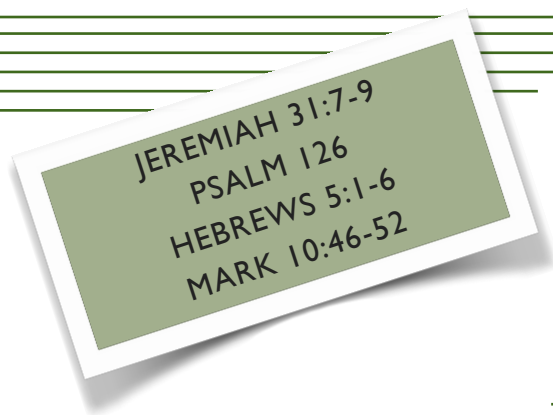
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Respect Life Reflection: Called to Serve Moms in Need respectlife.org/called-to-serve-reflection

LOSS & GRIEF GROUP

Bishop Wes is starting a Loss and Grief group. The objective of the group is not to replace or offer psychological therapy, but to create space for those who are grieving. Meetings will take place on the **first Sunday of the month at 3pm**. The meetings will be held at 'Halcyon' (the Bishop's residence) 2 Astwood Road, Paget.

Our Sunday Readings



The Lord Leads

JEREMIAH 31:7-9

Reading closely

1. To whom is the prophet speaking?
2. What is a *remnant*?
3. Who is part of this gathering?
4. What should the people do?
5. What all will God do for the people?
6. What do you think it would be like to be part of this group?
7. How might people have felt when they heard this prophesy?
8. How might people have reacted to this prophecy?

Living the word

9. How did a time you felt lonely or neglected affect your relationship with God?
10. Where do you think God is leading you?
11. How do you discern where God is leading you?
12. Who is with you on your spiritual journey?

THE FIRST READING

The prophet Jeremiah

The prophet Jeremiah was born around 650 BC. He began to prophesy during the reign of King Josiah, who did many things to help Israel follow God's law. The Israelite kings who reigned after

Josiah, however, were far less faithful to God. During their reigns Jeremiah warned that God would punish the nation for its sins.

From punishment to promise

Like Isaiah, Jeremiah prophesied that the Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem was God's punishment upon the Israelites. Jeremiah also prophesied that after this terrible event, God would bring his scattered people safely back to their land.

- God will gather all the Israelites who became refugees or prisoners during the invasion (v.8a)
- God is so powerful he will gather even the most vulnerable people (v.8b,c)
- God will provide his people water and a smooth path for their journey home (v.9)

Another Exodus

Jeremiah's description of the people's return to their homeland alludes to the Exodus, in which God leads his enslaved people out of Egypt, through the desert, and into prosperity. The Exodus is the story of the creation of Israel. Jeremiah's prophecy is a promise that God will gather and establish his people once again.

MARK 10:46-52

Reading closely

1. What might life be like for Bartimaeus?
2. What all might Bartimaeus want or expect from Jesus?
3. Why do you think the crowd tries to silence Bartimaeus?
4. Why do you think Bartimaeus keeps calling out for Jesus?
5. How does Bartimaeus respond when Jesus invites him forward?
6. Why does Jesus ask what Bartimaeus wants?
7. Why does Jesus tell Bartimaeus to *go your way*?
8. What all does *saved* mean?
9. How do you think Jesus reacts when Bartimaeus decides to follow him?
10. What is the significance of Jesus' destination?

Living the word

11. How is Bartimaeus a model of faith for you?
12. How is your faith saving you?
13. How do you respond when good things happen to you?
14. How readily do you call out to Jesus?

THE GOSPEL READING

Son of David

Bartimaeus calls Jesus *Son of David*. This title, used here for the first time in Mark's Gospel, is another way to express faith in Jesus as messiah and king. Jesus accepts the title Bartimaeus gives him. However, he will not fulfill the role of messiah/king/Son of David in the way that people expect.

Many Jews longed for someone to lead them into victory over their Roman conquerors. Passages in what is now our Old Testament indicate that a descendant of King David would free Israel and restore the nation to greatness. This person would be God's *anointed* or *chosen one* just as David was (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 11). The Hebrew word for *anointed one* is *messiah*. The Greek word is *christ*.

Although Jesus accepts messianic titles, he doesn't pursue military victories but acts instead with compassion and mercy. He also repeatedly urges his followers to act with this same self-giving love.

Life-saving faith

In most of the stories in Mark's Gospel Jesus can only heal those who have faith. Bartimaeus' faith is strong: he calls out in spite of the crowd's attempt to silence him, and when Jesus summons him, he rushes forward. He even throws aside his cloak, which he probably placed in front of him to collect money while begging. Though blind, Bartimaeus sees that his life is about to change.

What people see

The healing of Bartimaeus is the last thing that happens during Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Jesus will next enter the city in which he will be killed. During his journey Jesus repeatedly told his disciples that he would suffer and die.

The disciples don't understand or can't accept that Jesus will suffer. They don't yet see who Jesus is. Despite his physical blindness, Bartimaeus sees Jesus more clearly than they do. He even chooses to follow Jesus to the place of suffering and death.

The Way

Jesus tells Bartimaeus to *go your way*. Although *the way* can refer simply to a path or road, among the early Christians it also meant believing in and following Jesus.

Instead of going his own way, Bartimaeus chooses the way of Jesus. Having asked for healing, he now accepts the demands of discipleship. Bartimaeus is thus a model of both faith and discipleship. True faith commits a follower to Jesus' dangerous way.

PRAYER

*from Healing Prayers
by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

My Lord,
I turn to you with childlike faith and trust in your love for me.
I ask that you look upon me with mercy whenever I suffer or am in fear or anguish.
Help me to find the way to a happy and purposeful life so that I might show your kind and loving way to others. Amen.