

Thought for the day Friday 26 March. Fr. Bill Matthews

Today's Gospel reading is about seeing and light. Some Greek people turn up wanting to see JESUS for themselves. It's a natural thing to want to do.

During LOCKDOWN a lot of people have been dreaming about seeing places they haven't seen before. International travel has all but stopped for most of us.

Eileen and I volunteer to support Guide Dogs for the Blind. Our retired Guide Dog, Kelsey, made such a difference to the life of his former owner. Eric, preaches and leads services in many churches in North Wales and makes Christian radio programmes – Kelsey helped him do that.

Those of us lucky enough to have sight tend to take our vision for granted. What we see is light, reflected and refracted both from nearby objects and from outer space. We are able to make sense of the world as our eyes send the 'pictures' to our brains by light acting on the optic nerve. I've been particularly conscious of this over the last few days as I had an eye operation only a few days ago. The change in what I now see and understand is dramatic.

This is my last thought for day during Lent. I think that each of us who have contributed to these thoughts of the days of Lent have had one aim in view. It's the same goal as our preaching and Bible Studies in the Christian Church.

As a young preacher in the 1960's I would travel very many miles across the UK preaching at chapels and churches. Many of them had a little note in the pupit. It read, "Sir, we would see Jesus". Women preachers read it as Ma'am but we knew what it meant.

We unite as we approach Easter with the desire not to engage in abstruse arguments about words or philosophy. We simply want to see Jesus and help others do the same. In the passage Jesus says, 'Walk in the light' – I think we all know what that means. It is the light that brings Jesus to us so we can see His glory and follow Him.

Thought for the day Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Fr. John Reed.

The last in the series of thoughts for the day is focusing again on the themes of light or dark, which is being able to see or blindness. Jesus is expressing frustration with the Pharisees who cannot embrace either inwardly or openly in the Synagogue the good news from his Father in Heaven.

There is a saying “there is none so blind as those who don’t want to see.” We are blinded by our fears and prejudices; afraid to be seen to say different things from others around us. The Pharisees were very interested in the things of God, but not from the lips of Jesus. Do we treat others similarly? Writing off what they say before it is spoken. Jesus taught the importance of truth in the world, but if we close our ears to the truth others have, we run the risk of living in self inflicted darkness.

Jesus says “I have come as a light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness.” The Pharisees were afraid to step into the light Jesus brought to their darkness. Tomorrow is Palm Sunday the day that begins in popular triumph with Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey and sets Jesus on a collision course with both the Temple authorities, civil and military authorities leading to the events of the passion. Are we ready to walk in this light and embrace the truth it brings about God, about Jesus, about our own failed humanity.

Suffering Saviour as you walk the path set before you, give me the grace and humility to walk with you and learn from you. Amen