


Formed in Prayer



Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us

Dear Father,
Be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gospel

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 and told 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.

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading?
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

In healing the blind beggar Bartimaeus, Jesus asks, 'What do you want me to do for you?' It is fascinating to view this within the wider narrative. Just ten verses earlier, Jesus puts the same question to James and John: 'What is it you want me to do for you?' Compare these two interactions. Note the context for both: Jesus is 'on the road, going up to Jerusalem' (10:32), where he will be put to death. If we read the Bartimaeus story starting from verse 32 (rather than v.46), what more do we hear?

Perhaps we notice James and John jostling for a place of honour. Bartimaeus, however, is from the margins. His request is as forthright as that of the disciples; but he seeks life from the life-giver, not power from a power broker. For Bartimaeus, Jesus is healer, 'Son of David', the one in whom he trusts, for whom he is willing to be vulnerable. In their brief encounter, Jesus names what he sees: 'faith' in God who saves.

When I approach Jesus, who am I seeking; for what am I really asking?
(Dr Terese Pirola, Freelance writer and faith educator)

Prayer

I lift up my voice to the God of my salvation! O God, hear my cries, my petitions.
Heal me in body and soul.
Receive my simple faith.
Let me 'see' with your loving vision.
Guide me along the path of grace. In you I place my trust.
Amen.