

This Week's Readings

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13.

God's choice falls on David, and Samuel anoints him king.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14.

Once we were in darkness; now we have the light of Christ.

Gospel: John 9: 1-41.

The man born blind is healed, then receives spiritual sight, confesses his faith in Jesus and becomes his witness.



Points for Reflection

St John's tells us how a blind man, step by step, is cured by Jesus and then receives spiritual sight, which leads him to profess his faith in Jesus and become his witness. This is, indeed, a symbolic description of the spiritual journey of every human being.

Today's Gospel has been chosen especially for the Catechumens who are going to be baptized at Easter. It helps them to come closer to Christ, not through an abstract knowledge of him, but through a deeper personal experience of him, exactly like what happened to the blind man. But, of course, today's Gospel is also meaningful to us, who have already been baptized, as it gives us the opportunity to review our daily conduct, in order to see whether our first experience of Jesus Christ through baptism has indeed cast light upon our lives and whether we have since lived as "children of the light" (**Second Reading**).

We all, as far as our saving knowledge of God is concerned, are like people walking in darkness. In order to "see" God as he is, and to "see" things as God sees them, we need to be enlightened by Christ, the true Light of the world. Throughout his earthly life, Jesus made it clear by words and deeds that he was the Light of the world. In him, people could see the face of the invisible God. In his love for us, whom he called children of the Father in heaven, all could see the loving kindness of this invisible Father. And to those who had faith in him and were willing to follow him, Jesus offered a share of his Light: "*He who follows me, does not walk in darkness; he will have the light of life*" (John 8: 12): the life-giving light.

Every human being is, consciously or not, on the way to Christ, the Light of the world. Every thirst for truth, every desire of increasing one's knowledge of God and the mysteries concerning the existence of the world and one own's existence, and, above all, every act of love is, indeed, a step towards Christ. There are people who, by God's free gift, come to an explicit knowledge of Christ: it is those, who, through faith and baptism, come into communion with the Risen Christ and his Body, the Church. This gift, however, demands of them a continuous long journey of search amidst trials, difficulties and disappointments, like the ones experienced by the blind man. But, once made capable of overcoming such difficulties, and initiated into the Body of Christ by baptism, Christians become the children of the

light: they themselves become light, and are enabled to bring light to others, by helping people to see everything with the eyes of Christ.

This is our mission, too: to enlighten the world with the Light which is Christ. The Light we receive in baptism is a free gift of God: is Christ himself, the Risen Christ. Yet it ought to bear concrete fruits in works of faith and love. As St Paul puts it, "*Light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to God*", so that Christ may become visible in our lives. The test for knowing whether our mission to be the light of the world is being fulfilled faithfully is our brotherly love. We will give witness that Christ's light is actually at work in us by the intensity of our concern for the needs of our brothers and sisters and of the world. Only through our brotherly love can those we meet see the true face of God: the face of a loving Father.

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Kids' Corner

Colour the picture of Jesus below.

