

St. Stephen's Chapel

Stanley, Hong Kong

A daughter church of St. John's Cathedral
in the Anglican / Episcopal Diocese of Hong Kong Island

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 St Stephen's Chapel Stanley Hong Kong

22nd March 2020
4th Sunday in Lent

The Revd Will Newman



The blind man sees

*A reading from St John's Gospel, chapter 9,
verses 1-17, and 24-41.*

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man

nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

They said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do

know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

PRAYERS

We pray for the Church throughout the world; for the worldwide Anglican Communion of Churches; and in the Anglican Church of Hong Kong, (the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui), for St Mary's Church Causeway Bay, for the Revd Tsui Yuk Fan, Samuel Tang, Lo Yuen Sum, and Kenneth Lo.

We pray for the world...

We pray for all those suffering from the coronavirus in Hong Kong, China, and worldwide:

God of hope and healing, at this time of a virus outbreak give courage and healing to the sick, patience to the suffering and comfort to the anxious. Grant those in authority and the medical personnel, wisdom and sensitivity to manage the situation. Pour your love upon us so we may be an encouragement and help for each other at this time of need. Abide with us in our going out and coming in. Protect us all and give us the assurance of your faith, hope and love. We offer our prayer through Jesus Christ in whose name wholeness, salvation and peace come. Amen.

We pray for the sick, especially Lo Yuk Wah, Karen Flores, Lindsay Kimber, Sin-Toon Phua, Tang Ying Tai, Wong Yuk Lin, Donna Willis, Corinne Haig, and James Green.

We pray for the departed...