



## The Priory Church of Jesus Christ Ascot

### This Week at the Priory

The Priory is closed on Tuesday & Friday

#### Monday - Wednesday - Thursday

8:30am Morning Prayer

9:00am Mass

5:00pm Evening Prayer

#### Sunday November 4th

##### All Saints

10:00am Holy Eucharist

3:30pm Service of Remembrance  
(for the Departed)

### Hymn: 310

#### For your prayers this week

**Pray for** The Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands Bp. Howard Gregory, Jonathan our Bishop and the Bishops and Parishes of the Society. Bp Tony Robinson. St Agatha, Sparkbrook & St Barnabas, Balsall Heath: Fr John Hervé, Fr Robert Warren. St Mark & St Saviour, Saltley: Fr Alan Thompson. All Saints, Small Heath: Fr Oliver Coss, Fr Patrick Gillon. St Cuthbert Castle Vale & St Georges Minworth: Fr James Cope. St Benedict Bordesley: Fr Percil Cadogen.

**Pray for** this Priory, Fr. Paul and the Trustees

**Pray for** the peace of the world.

**Pray for those in need:** the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, for refugees, for all victims of terrorism, cruelty or abuse, the lonely, the frightened, the despairing and the bereaved.

**Pray for** those who are sick or in need: Simon, Naomi, Derek, Barbara, Ray, Patti, Lisa, Helen, Karen, Jacqui, Pam, Duncan, Marion, Marjorie, James, Nigel, Allan, Heather, Angela, Warren, Barry, Sr Catherine, Ruth, Gillian, Clive, Fr Huw, Emma, Melanie & Len.

**Pray for the departed** Ethel Young, Fr. Montague Noel, Fr. Cyril Hallett, Bp. Frank Weston, Sr Bertha of the Ascension, Eileen Ing, Eugene Peterson.

#### Readings for next Sunday

Wisdom 3:1-9

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44



The blind, the beggar in today's Gospel is very shrewd. He has heard of Jesus' reputation as a healer. How can he "force" Jesus to heal him?

So he bases his request to Jesus on "mercy" - "Son of David, have mercy on me!" In the Mediterranean value system, mercy describes a person's willingness to pay personal debts. By repeating this statement over and over, the beggar insists that Jesus owes the healing to him. By shouting it out ever more loudly, the clever beggar makes the entire crowd aware of Jesus' debt to him.

On what basis does Jesus owe this apparent stranger anything? By addressing him as "son of David," the beggar publicly identifies Jesus as Messiah. Even if Jesus or the crowd were to disagree about messianic imputation, the title "son of David" situates Jesus in that lineage and would be very difficult indeed for Jesus to accept without rewarding the person who announced them.

Jesus adopts the role of servant, accedes to the blind man's request, intercedes like a servant with the God of Israel, and obtains restoration of the man's sight.

The beggar regains his sight and immediately follows Jesus. The healed beggar joins Jesus' entourage because he is indebted to Jesus and will sing his praises far and wide.

That is the basis of all evangelism.

Fr. John J. Pilch

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