

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



4th Sunday of Lent

19 March 2023 – Year A

***“The man who was blind went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.”***

### Something to Think About

Sometimes we can be ‘blind’ to the needs of others. What do you think this might mean?

### The Story

The gospel story today is a miracle story. Jesus meets a man who was blind from birth. Jesus used 'spittle' on the man's eyes as a form of cure. This seems strange to us but in Jesus' time and culture, the spittle of a distinguished person was believed to have the power to heal. The blind man was then instructed to wash in the pool of Siloam. The word 'siloam' means 'one who is sent'. This means that the cured man was now a disciple of Jesus, someone who put his faith in Jesus.

### The Scriptures

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**                      **9:1, 6-12, 35-38**

One day as Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind since birth. Jesus spit on the ground. He made some mud and smeared it on the man's eyes.

Then he said, "Go and wash off the mud in Siloam Pool."  
The man went and washed in Siloam, which means "One Who Is Sent."  
When he had washed off the mud, he could see.

The man's neighbours and the people who had seen him begging wondered if he really could be the same man. Some of them said he was the same beggar, while others said he only looked like him. But he told them, "I am that man."

"Then how can you see?" they asked.

He answered, "Someone named Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. He told me to go and wash it off in Siloam Pool. When I did, I could see."

"Where is he now?" they asked. "I don't know," he answered.

When Jesus heard what had happened, he went and found the man.

Then Jesus asked, "Do you have faith in the Son of Man?"  
He replied, "Sir, if you will tell me who he is, I will put my faith in him."

"You have already seen him," Jesus answered, "and right now he is talking with you."  
The man said, "Lord, I put my faith in you!"  
Then he worshipped Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Video** Click to watch the video: [Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind](#)



## Group Discussion

Sometimes we can be quick to jump to conclusions and judge others based on what we see. The gospel challenges us to stop and look ... to really see and try to understand other people. Invite children to share their own understanding of what it means to 'see'.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Gathered as one with all creation, let us pray for the needs of the world.

*Reader 1:* We pray that our leaders will consider the needs of all people. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray that our eyes will be open to see God in others. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for those who are sad or lonely. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray that we might put our faith in Jesus. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will help those in need. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Lord Jesus,  
Open our eyes to see the goodness in  
each person we meet.  
Help us to put our faith in you and to  
trust in your unending love.  
Amen.

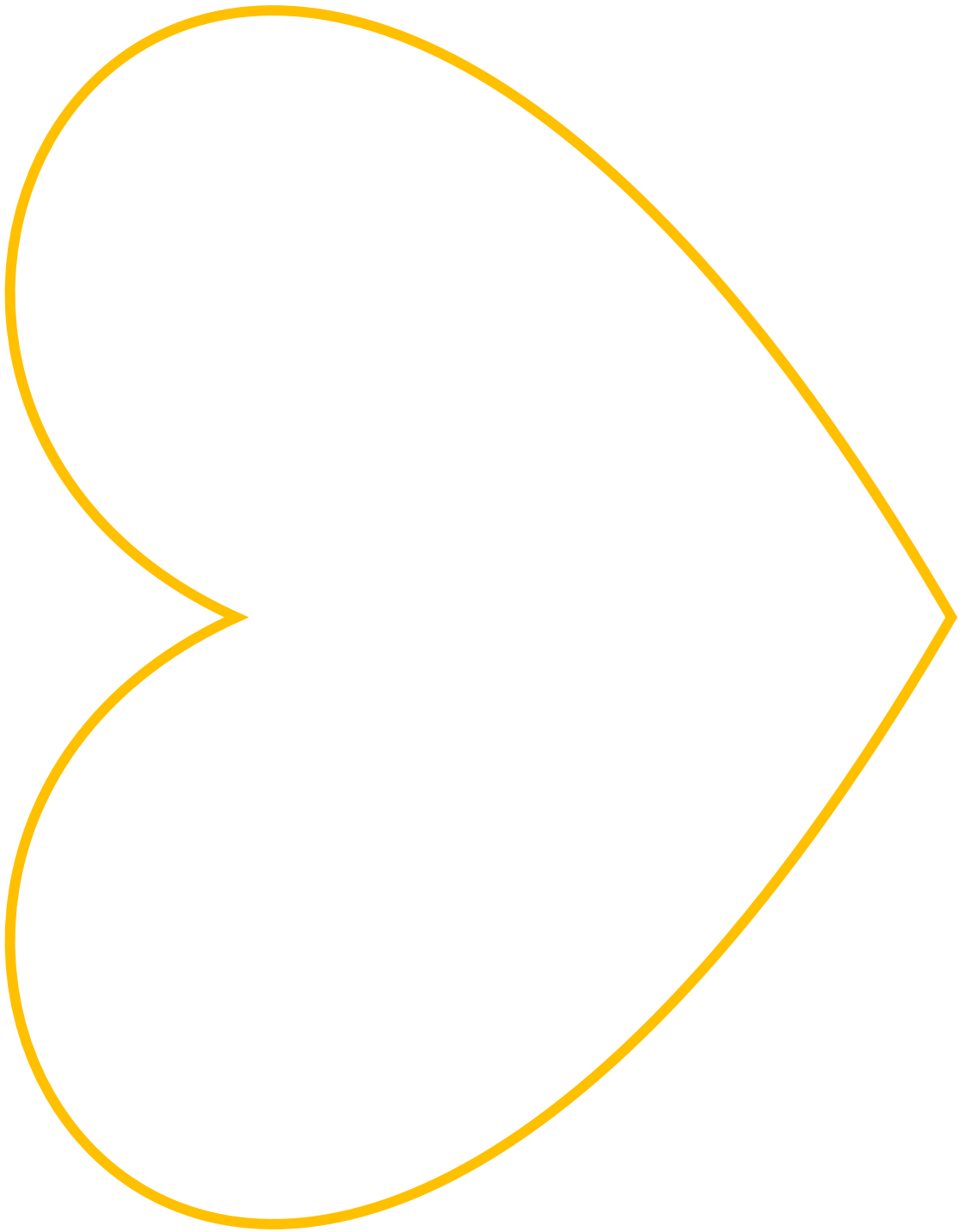
## Group Activity

### Open the Eyes of My Heart

*You will need:* construction paper cut in shape of a heart for each child (see template), A4 paper with printed title (see template), large googly eyes, glue, marker pen, craft items (glitter, jewels, buttons, sequins, etc)

1. Invite children to glue googly eyes onto their heart.
2. Then decorate the rest of the heart with craft items.
3. Glue the finished heart onto the sheet of paper with printed title.





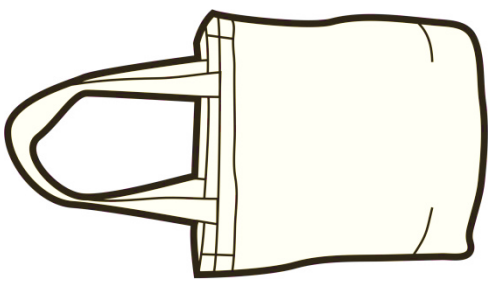
**Open the Eyes of my Heart**



## **JESUS HEALS THE BLIND MAN AND LETS HIM SEE!**

### **IMAGINE YOU CANNOT SEE**

Get someone to put some mystery things in a shopping bag.



Now reach in and see if you can tell what they are without looking.



### **TALK TO SOMEONE WHO WEARS GLASSES**

Ask them what they can see without their glasses.



Ask if you can try on their glasses. What does it look like to you?