

Homily 2022.03.27 4th Sunday, in Lent (Year C – but using year A readings)

We use the year A readings for this Sunday because we have a Catechumen, Aruna Wijetunge, who is preparing for Adult Baptism at the Easter Vigil. His second RCIA ‘Scrutiny’ will take place at the 10am Mass today. Please keep him in your prayers. This is moment for the parish to reflect on the gift of Baptism and the journey of faith.

At Baptism we are anointed with oil – ‘As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King.’ In today’s first reading we hear of young David being anointed, who would become King David. Through the anointing of Baptism we become Christ’s royal, priestly, prophetic people.

In the Gospel of the Man Born Blind.

1. Connection and parallels with last Sunday’s Gospel of the woman of Samaria at the well. The man is taken on a similar journey of faith, firstly getting halfway there (He is a prophet) and then all the way (Lord, I believe).

2. Darkness and light are primary themes for John’s gospel: the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. Healing of blindness is a symbol of inner healing of spiritual blindness, but more than that, it is a moving from one kingdom to another. This is the move that Aruna will make at Easter, and we should reflect on this for ourselves too.

3. Man born blind is put on trial just like Jesus – a forward echo of the passion of Jesus. On trial and rejected. And the man declares ‘I am the man’ an echo of *ecce homo*: Pilate presenting Jesus to the crowds ‘Here is the man’. In Baptism we died with Christ that we might rise with him. We put on a new self. The blind man is changed and must leave his old self behind. We already share in the life of the Risen Christ.

We take this opportunity this Lent and Easter to remind ourselves of the Magnitude, the Dignity, the Privilege and the Responsibility to be baptised in Jesus into his death and resurrection.