

Lent 4th week 2023

No one would openly believe it. Facing the obvious. The neighbours said it was not the man. The Pharisees said it was not possible on the Sabbath. Even the man himself proclaims “tell me” after the miracle of the return of his sight.

All too often we see only what we want to see.

We do not simply ignore the challenge. We do not see, that which we do not want to see. Because it implies that we must act.

In the morning as the alarm on my phone goes off I see only the snooze button. I close my eyes and then see as little as possible. I choose not to see that dozy relaxed slumber now, will mean panicked disorder in less than half an hour. With shut eyes I try to ignore my bladder. Then the crushing reality of life reawakens with the insistent tone this small machine emits, and I have no choice but begin the struggle out of this comfortable illusion of tranquillity.

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As a priest I am blessed with a roof over my head, and food on my table. I have no rent or mortgage. No nagging fear about making my money last. I have no inclination to close my eyes and see as little financial crisis as possible. I do not need to plan my shopping. I do not need to see where I must restrict the household spending. I am not tempted by the attractive lies of those trying to sell credit. Those who sell debt at ridiculous levels of interest. For me there will not be the crushing confirmation of a bank statement. When choice will be limited to where to transmit the negative balance, and at what price. But there is no choice. Eventually we are obliged to begin the struggle out of the comfortable illusion of debt.

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We all love our children and grandchildren. Bright eyes and innocent expressions. We often dream of how they will grow to have much more than we could achieve. Then are quite unable to see the physical world face. That this world will potentially be so much poorer as a result of the pollution we

pump into the air, or filth that we throw into the sea. We complain about the weather but refuse to make the connection. Calming our vision by only gazing into irrelevances of comfort on our television screens.

Perhaps we will never personally experience the crushing reality of a man made natural disaster, or the death of the vast majority of our wildlife. But the comfort of such blindness may not be afforded to those children and grandchildren that are to come.

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Indeed what are you choosing not to see

Age

Income

Health

Relationship

What are you choosing not to see?

I pray we have the faith to look and see

And the courage to act

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