



DARE TO DREAM

Autumn Series

Week Beginning October 24th October
30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Before you begin read this

"Mercy always has a youthful face! Because a merciful heart is motivated to move beyond its comfort zone. A merciful heart can go out and meet others ready to embrace everyone. A merciful heart is able to be a place of refuge for those who are without a home or have lost their home; it is able to build a home and a family for those forced to emigrate; it knows the meaning of tenderness and compassion. A merciful heart can share its bread with the hungry and welcome refugees and migrants. To say the word "mercy is to speak of opportunity, future, commitment, trust, openness, hospitality, compassion and dreams." Pope Francis, World Youth Day, Poland, 28th July 2016

Video - Watch and listen to Fr. Richard Elson

Prayerfully read this passage from the Gospel of Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

- Take some time to ponder on the words you have just read.
- Notice if there is anything, a word or phrase that stands out for you.
- Read the passage again and then reflect upon all or some of these questions: if you are doing this as a family or a group, make sure everyone is given the opportunity to speak.

Personal Reflections

- What strikes you most about the message in today's Gospel?
- Bartimaeus asks Jesus to have mercy on him. Where in your own life are you seeking mercy or being invited to be merciful?
- Where are you in need of courage at this moment on your journey of faith?

Now thinking about your parish and local community

- Scripture scholars suggest that when Bartimaeus throws off his cloak, he is throwing away his old way of life. What, in your parish, might the Lord be inviting you to throw away or let go of?
- Pope Francis has made mercy at theme of his pontificate. How as a parish community do you show mercy?

Action

- In a world where there is much conflict there is a need for healing and forgiveness, mercy and justice. Identify one or more areas in the world where there is conflict. Pray for the people caught up in the troubles. Hold a vigil or a prayer service for the people who are oppressed or experiencing violence. Pray for those who are determined to inflict violence.
- Closer to home, consider the need for mercy for those who are in prison. Consider what action as a community you can take to offer support and comfort to those families struggling with a member of their family in prison. You might like to look at the work of PACT and see if you can respond to their requests.
<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>

The Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact) is a national charity that provides support to prisoners, people with convictions, and their families. They support people to make a fresh start and minimise the harm that can be caused by imprisonment to people who have committed offences, to families and to communities.

They:

Build stronger families and safer communities.

Reduce risk of harm to prisoners and their children.

Remove barriers and increase awareness in public services.

Influence commissioning, policy and legislation.

Finish with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the grace to respond.

