

## The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

# John 9

*As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me.  
The night will soon be here when no-one can work.  
As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

### What does St Paul think?

I think that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation awaits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its slavery to decay, and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now, hope that is seen is not hope; who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (*Rm 8: 18-24*)

### The word *sent* in the Fourth Gospel

From the Prologue onwards we find the word *sent* being used of people with divine mission:

- John the Baptist: *A man came, sent by God (1: 6); He who sent me to baptise...told me: the one on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest, is the one who is to baptise with the Holy Spirit (1: 33)*
- Jesus is the ambassador of God, with whom the world must deal if it is to have life: *God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but so that through him the world might be saved (3:17). Whoever listens to my words and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life (5: 24). My judging is just, because I seek not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me (5: 30: cf 6:38). These deeds I do testify that the Father has sent me; besides, the Father who sent me bears witness to me himself. You have never heard his voice, you have not seen what he looks like, and his word finds no home in you because you do not believe in the one he has sent (5: 36-8). The will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all he has given me, but that I should raise it up on the last day (6: 39). As the living Father sent me, and I draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will also draw life from me (6: 57). My teaching is not from myself: it comes from the one who sent me (7: 16).*
- Jesus' fate is of vital importance to those who judge him: *You know me, and you know where I came from. Yet I have not come of my own accord: but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, but I know him, because I have my being from him, and it was he who sent me (7: 28-9). For a short time I am with you still. Then I shall go back to the one who sent me. You will look for me and not find me: where I am, you cannot come (7: 33-4). If I judge, my judgment will be true, because I am not alone; the one who sent me is with me, and in your Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, but the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf too (8: 16-8). The one who sent me is true, and what I declare to the world I have learned from him (8: 26). What I say is what the Father has taught me; he who sent me is with me, and has not left me to myself, for I always do what pleases him (8: 28-9). If God were your Father, you would love me, since I have my origin from God and come from him; I did not come of my own accord, but he sent me (8: 42).*

## John 9

### AS A SIGN THAT HE IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, JESUS GIVES SIGHT TO A MAN BORN BLIND

vv 1-5	<b>The setting</b>
6-7	<b>The miraculous healing</b>
8-34	<b>Interrogations</b>
8-12	<b>The questions of neighbours and acquaintances</b>
13-17	<b>Preliminary interrogation (by the Pharisees)</b>
18-23	<b>The man's parents are questioned (by the Jews)</b>
24-34	<b>Second interrogation (by the Jews)</b>
35-41	<b>Jesus leads the newly-sighted man to spiritual sight (= faith) and the Pharisees are hardened in their blindness</b>

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### From the Prologue of the Fourth Gospel

What has come into being through him was life, life that was the *light* of men; and *light shines in darkness*, and darkness could not overpower it. The Word was the *true light* that gives light to everyone: he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had come into being through him, and *the world did not recognise* him; he came to his own, and *his own people did not accept* him. But to those who did accept him, *he gave power to become children of God*: to those who *believed* in his name, who were *born* not from human stock, or human desire, or human will, but *from God* himself. The Word became flesh: he pitched his tent among us, and *we saw his glory*, the glory that he has from the Father as only Son of the Father, full of grace and *truth*. Indeed, from his fulness we have all received - one gift replacing another: for the Law was given through *Moses*: grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever *seen God*: it is the only *Son*, closest to the Father's heart, who *has made him known*.

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#### The Opposition

What did he do to you?

He cannot be from God, he does not keep the Sabbath

Where is he?

What have you to say about him?

He is a sinner

What did he do to you to open your eyes?

We are disciples of Moses, who don't know where he comes from.

You try to teach us, you a sinner from your mother's womb?

(and they drove him out)

#### The Blind Man

The man called Jesus made a paste, anointed my eyes with it, told me to wash at Siloam, I washed - I can see.

I don't know

He is a prophet

I don't know if he is a sinner. All I know is I was blind, now I can see

Do you want to be his disciples too?

God listens not to sinners but to the devout who do his will: he is from God

Tell me who he is, so I may believe

Lord, I believe  
(and worshipped him)