

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**  
**27 October 2024**  
**Mark 10:46-52**

### **Catechist Background**

Bartimaeus, the blind beggar we meet in today's Gospel reading, is set as a contrast to the other characters we have met in recent Gospel selections. Whereas he could not see with his eyes, he understood (or "saw") Jesus in a way to which Jesus' friends, the educated elite and the crowds of people were blind. Jesus' other followers would only be cured of their 'blindness' after the Resurrection. By calling Jesus 'Son of David,' Bartimaeus showed he recognised Jesus as the Messiah, for the much-anticipated Messiah was understood to be a descendant of David. Bartimaeus' cloak was highly symbolic in this story as well; it marked the place where he sat and begged for alms from passers-by. In Exodus 22:26-27, the Israelites were forbidden from keeping another's cloak as collateral for a debt. This was because it was an essential requirement, as it may have been a poor person's only means of covering and warmth. The fact that Bartimaeus leapt from it and willingly left it in haste to answer Jesus' call speaks volumes.

Interestingly, the Greek word for 'road' (as in '...was sitting at the side of the road...' '...and he followed him along the road') is the same as the Greek word for 'way' – and it is worth noting that the earliest Christians were called 'followers of the Way' in Acts 22:4 and elsewhere. By seeing/recognising Jesus for who he really was and immediately following Jesus along the road/way, Bartimaeus was an example of a perfect disciple.

### **We Say Sorry**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness, Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner, Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life, Lord, have mercy

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

### **We Pray (1)**

God, help us to answer your call to love with open hearts and smiling lives. Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel:** Mark 10:46-52

### **Reflecting on the Gospel Reading with Children**

- As this was a long, long time ago, what do you think Bartimaeus' life would have been like, as a blind beggar?
  - What sort of belongings might he have had?
- Why do you think the crowds told him to be quiet and stop calling to Jesus?  
[It may be worth reminding the children that we have heard in recent Gospels about the people who did not want children brought to Jesus, and about people who thought Jesus was going to be an important political leader.]
- How brave was it of Bartimaeus to leave his cloak, possibly the only thing he owned, to go to Jesus when he called?
  - Do you think you could be that brave?

## Response

Choose a child to act as Jesus. 'Jesus' should go to each child in turn and ask him/her what they want. Encourage them to shout cheerfully, 'I want to see Jesus!' At the end, if space allows, have a little parade around your children's liturgy space, maybe singing a cheerful song as you go.

## We Believe

Relating the Creed to what you have shared with the children, ask these questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father who made a perfect world for us to enjoy?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus Son of David, who heals us and calls us to follow him?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who fills us with the ability to follow along the Way?

## We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying, 'You asked Bartimaeus to share with you what he hoped for and so we also now pray...'

Leader: We pray for the Church around the world, that we may always be compassionate to those in need. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the governments of all countries, that they may work for peace in all the world. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people who are blind, that they may experience Jesus' love in all those around them. We especially pray for the blind in countries where it is difficult to live with disabilities. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for our friends and our families and our loved ones, especially those who have asked us to pray for them. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, help us to follow in your ways as Bartimaeus did, learning from you and loving others generously, like you. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

