

Homily 30th Sunday (B)

27/28 October 2018

Hope you've had a good half term – those of you at least who have a half term. I've spent several days this week just being still and quiet with blind Bartimaeus, just resting in that great prayer of his – *“Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me”*.

Sitting at the side of the road and calling out to Jesus is the very core of my life. Without this inner relationship with the Lord I would be nothing at all.

So, solitude can be good. But I can't stay at the side of the road for ever. Jesus is calling me. I must throw off my cloak and go to Jesus. *“What do you want me to do for you?” he asks. “Master, let me see again”*. Immediately, my sight is returned. I can see again and all I want to do is to follow Jesus *along the road*, to be part of his company, maybe even *to offer gifts and sacrifice* with him.

The Lord gathers us all into his company, *a great company returning* to him, returning to those streams of living water.

This is what it means to be a Catholic Christian, following Jesus along the road, being gathered together. We need that inner personal relationship with the Lord. We need a personal commitment and personal prayer. But we also need our brothers and sisters, especially the blind, the lame, women with child, women in labour, the weak and the vulnerable. They are on the journey as well. We are all in this together. We accompany each other. We listen to each other. We help each other. We arrive at the truth together.

It's All Saints' Day on Thursday. All the saints join with us in prayer, join with us in our struggle against evil of every kind. Our Blessed Lady leads the way. She is the very first disciple, leading us along the road from Jericho to Jerusalem.

So maybe two poles to the spiritual life, first *sitting at the side of the road* and crying out *“Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me”*, but then the second, coming out of that solitude, getting on to that road, journeying with our brothers and sisters of every race and language, towards the Kingdom promised us by the Lord.

Fr Michael