

Dear Young People,

It will seem very strange indeed not being together for several weeks listening to you all and discussing a range of topics. It is one of the highlights of my week and I'm going to miss it very much. The implications of the Covid19 emergency will impact significantly upon young people, creating uncertainty about your education and exams. I will be thinking of you and anxious to hear how it all plays out.

I will try to provide a short reflection based on the bible passage for the week and hope that you can take time to read the passage and consider how it is relevant to where you are. The passage this week is [John's Gospel, Chapter 9, verses 1-41](#). It is longer than we usually read together, but well worth reading right to the end. It's about Jesus healing a blind man. The passage begins with a simple but miraculous restoration of a young man's sight and it is then followed by argument and discussion about whether it is real, about Jesus and his status as saviour or sinner. But the outcome was simple: a man whose life was transformed, not just in terms of the restoration of his physical sight but because his eyes were opened to see into the mind of Jesus who healed him. 'Lord I believe!'

I was reminded of the advert for the Guide Dogs charity that I have seen a few times on TV. Perhaps you have seen it too? It's on YouTube – [Guide Dogs By My Side](#). In the advert a young child, played by 8 year old Xanthe, is playing football. As she plays she is shouting out a running commentary, the reason for which is not clear. After the match she's pictured from behind walking home holding her father's hand. As the camera pans towards the father, who we see properly for the first time, it is clear that he is blind and by his other hand is being led by a guide dog. It's a wonderful examination of the relationship between daughter and father and how disability does not divide but draws them closer and deepens their bond, just as the relationship between Jesus and the blind man drew them together into a new vision, as it were.

We see what we want to see very often and are blinded by many other things. During these difficult times our eyes will need to be open to those around us, their concerns and needs.

Have a good week.

Rodney