

Thirtieth Sunday Ordinary Time – 27th October 2024

Headings	Gospel (Mark 10:46 -52)	First Reading (Jeremiah 31:7-9)	Second Reading (Hebrews 5:1-6)
Context	In today's gospel Jesus continues to teach and form his disciples as they travel to Jerusalem. They come to Jericho where a man called Bartimeaus was longing to meet him and be healed of blindness.	Chapter 31 -33 of the Book of Jeremiah is known as the Book of Consolation. Here Jeremiah gives a message of hope and a promise of restoration. He foresees a return of the people from exile to their own country.	The letter to the Hebrews envisions Jesus Christ as the high priest of heaven where he offered his blood once for all for our redemption. He now intercedes to the Father for us. His ministry in heaven was made possible by his resurrection and his ascension.
Key verse	“So, throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, What do you want me to do for you? Rabbuni; the blind man said to him ‘ Master, let me see again’”	“ They had left in tears, I will comfort them as I lead them back; I will guide them to streams of water, by a smooth path where they will not stumble”	“ You are my son, today I have become your father...You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and forever”
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though physically blind Bartimaeus had been given the faith to see that Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. • Bartimaeus persisted in his search despite rebukes from the crowd. • He throws off his cloak symbolizing casting off the old life to embrace the new life as a follower of Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremiah prophesies the restoration of Israel. • He proclaims that God has not forgotten them, that he will gather them from the ends of the earth. • The Lord makes many encouraging promises in this passage. • The Lord makes known his fatherly love for Israel, his chosen people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priests are mediators between man and God. As such they must be united with men and called by God. • The priests of Israel were united with men in the weakness of human sin and were called by God to an earthly priesthood. • Jesus too was united with men in their human nature; however he was free from sin and called by God to a heavenly priesthood. • The ministry of Jesus was superior to that of the Old Testament priests as their offerings and sacrifices could not remove sin; the sacrifice of Jesus did.
Questions/ application to our lives	The gospel centers on physical and spiritual healing. Jesus asks what do you want me to do for you? If Jesus asked you the same question how would you answer? Are we content to live a life of comfort? What more could we do to follow Jesus along the road?	Jeremiah was called by God to preach repentance from sin to the nation of Judah. Do you think repentance is needed today? Do you see the need for renewal and restoration in the Church today? If so how do you think that restoration can come about?	The way Old Testament priests were called by God was different from the way Jesus was called. How would you describe the difference? How might a man detect or discern a call to priesthood? Has your family ever encouraged a vocation to priestly ministry? Do you give time to pray regularly for vocations?
Further reading	<i>Catechism 547, 1814 -1816, 2667</i>	<i>Catechism 670, 821, 827,</i>	<i>Catechism 784, 1539 - 1540, 1578,</i>