

SIGHT FOR SORE EYES

Three great gifts are on offer during Lent: water, light and life. It's the second of these gifts, light, that we hear about today in the gospel. It's the account of Jesus's miracle worked for the man born blind. And he brings light to the man's eyes in more ways than one.

There's none so blind as those who will not see, so the phrase goes. People who are physically blind have eyes that do not react to the light. Of course, there are people who not only cannot see, but also refuse to see. Some just refuse to open their eyes and see what's staring them in the face. They don't want to believe. They think that they can escape reality by ignoring it. Such people are found inside and outside the Church.

But the gift that Jesus offered the blind man and which he promises to us, is not just that we will see, but that we will have a new vision of reality. Life would never be the same again for the man born blind; Jesus helped him to see things clearly. To see with eyes of faith does not mean that everything looks rosy, but that we can see beyond the immediate, and appreciate life in all its multicoloured forms. It gives us a fresh set of priorities, different goals, and a new way of looking at things. We need no longer be afraid of the dark.

In Lent we realise once again that we have been "enlightened" by Christ and that we have a creed, a set of values and beliefs, that allows us to see things differently. Our eyes react to the Light of the World.

MOTHER OF ALL SUNDAYS?

The Fourth Sunday of Lent has claims laid to it on all sides. Commercially it has been commandeered as Mother's Day and a sizeable industry has grown up recently around greeting cards, bouquets and special discount Sunday lunches.

Traditionally this day is called "Laetare Sunday". The word "Laetare" means "rejoicing", and perhaps is reminiscent of a little festivity in the middle of Lent. In medieval times, people returned to their "mother (parish) church and often went to confession and communion as part of what became known as Easter Duties.

Many Christians refer to this Sunday as "Mothering Sunday", and by a happy coincidence manage to combine both the idea of motherhood and church membership in one fell swoop. It is summed up in a beautiful prayer recognising that God is like a mother feeding her children at the breast, and then asks that those who are fed by the Eucharist may "grow in grace within the household of faith".



TODAY

SEDLSCOMBE & DISTRICT

FLOWER CLUB Mothers' Day Coffee morning, 10 to 12 noon in the village hall.

MOTHERING SUNDAY 14 March.

Posies are prepared for children to give to their mothers at the 10 am service in the Parish Church. If you have any flowers to contribute, please leave them in the garden of the Old Gun House by 2 pm on Saturday, 13th. Thank you.

SEDLSCOMBE PARISH

COUNCIL A reminder that the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting of Sedlescombe will be held in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm on **Tuesday, 16 March**. The guest speaker will be the County Council's Area Highway Manager, Mr Graham Furness. This will be the first opportunity to buy a "Sedlescombe 2000" bone china mug for £3.50. Also available will be Parish Maps, footpath leaflets and copies of "A Century of Village Life".

SEDLSCOMBE W.I. Meeting **17 March** at 2 pm. "The Work of Age Concern" by Andrea Talbon.

Competition: Something Relevant to Tea. Tea Ladies: Mrs Green, Mrs Hart and Mrs Hodges. Visitors welcome.

SEDLSCOMBE DISTRICT

SENIORS The speaker on Thursday will be Mr Graham Albon who will be making a re-appearance with a slide show on one of his travelogues, this time in Japan - The Nakasendi Trail. At the last meeting the variety of talents within the membership came to the fore as the booked speaker had to attend hospital. The result was a medley of entertainment with Mr Walter Williamson presenting musical quizzes with a top selection of music which brought much toe-tapping and humming along, not to say memory searching. He was backed up by members reading humorous stories, not the least Mr Gerry Makey's offering of applying Organisation and Method to a symphony orchestra - 'who needs three oboes when one will do? And all those violins....!' There was sufficient entertainment for members to ask for another performance, so the wheels of ingenuity are turning.