

This Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is rather unique; like the third Sunday of Advent (“Gaudete Sunday”), the fourth Sunday of Lent is a break in an otherwise penitential season. The vestments for this day can be rose, as they can be on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, and flowers may adorn the altar. This day is called “Laetare Sunday” (also “Rose Sunday”), because of the opening words of the Mass: The Introit’s “Laetare, Jerusalem,” or “Rejoice, O Jerusalem.”

Today’s Gospel – the cure of the man blind from birth – shows that Jesus is the Light of the world and bears out what is stated in the prologue of the Gospel according to John: “The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world” (1:9). Jesus is the Light of the world because his life among men has enabled us to see the true meaning of the world and of the life of each and every person. We were created to know, to love, and to serve God in this life to be happy with Him forever in heaven (*Catechism*, 1721).

“When Jesus heard that they had thrown [the man] out, he found him and said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered and said, ‘Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘I do believe, Lord,’ and he worshiped him” (John 9:35-38).

Father Frei