

Who sinned? This man or his parents?

1 Samuel 16¹⁻¹³; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5⁸⁻¹⁴; John 9

*Who sinned? This man or his parents?
[John 9²]*

We live in such very strange times. Normally, the world around us lives in cheerful optimism whilst the Church basks in the the misery of Lent. This year, because of the various threats to life as we know it, the world around us is in misery and fear, yet the Church proclaims a message of hope and comfort. Uniquely, in my life time, people are being forced to take stock of what matters and what is important.

One of the other things that seems to be happening - a symptom of our current way of thinking - is that we live in a blame culture. If bad things are happening, then it must be someone's fault! In that there is a resonance with the Gospel readings for today.

Who is to blame for empty supermarket shelves? The supply train or the greed of individuals motivated by the sincere conviction that they are more important than anyone else.

Who is to blame for the restrictions on what we want to do? A virus, the Prime Minister who should be doing more, or less, sooner, or later!

There is also in these readings the modern addiction to 'passing the buck':

The neighbours wanted to know what had happened, who passed that responsibility to the Pharisees.

The Parents who pleaded ignorance and said of the man, twice, **he is of age, ask him.**

What we see in the graciousness of God's intervention is that Jesus doesn't involve himself in the blame, but brings healing; he doesn't pass the buck, he does something about it!

At times like these it isn't the questions that matter; it isn't even the answers! It is, in Paul's words, **to live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.**