

Genesis 3: 1-8

Psalm 31

Mark 9: 31-37

Genesis tells us the story of the first and most deadly of sins. It relates how Adam and Eve succumb to the temptation of the Devil, eat from the Tree of Life and are banished from the Garden of Eden and from their direct sight of God. The words 'Direct Sight' are relevant here because the one truth that the Devil spoke was that "On the day you eat it (the fruit), you will be like Gods KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL."

Adam and Eve realised that they were naked but God, in fact, left them with that one important gift: Knowledge of good and evil; a conscience.

Does not sin start in the same way for all of us? I desire something and then succumb to sin to get it?

Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we have been absolved of that first sin of Adam and Eve, yet we still sin. Why? Because God also gave us the gift of free will. We may fail but we never lose the gift of discerning good from evil. The recognition of our sins and the knowledge and reality of God's constant love allows us the opportunity to be healed, just as Jesus healed the deaf man in today's Gospel.

The deaf man was brought to Jesus and, 'His ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened, and he spoke clearly.' In the words of the Psalm, "Happy the man whose offence is forgiven." Jesus' teaching? We have only to go to him in repentance of our sins and we will be healed and renewed.