

Tuesday 24 March

Today is Tuesday the 24 March, in the Fourth Week of Lent.

The University of Johannesburg choir sing a setting of Psalm 42: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

Today's reading is from the Gospel of John.

In the reading, Jesus approaches the paralysed man and asks him whether he wants to be made well. That seems a strange question; surely the answer is utterly obvious? Nonetheless Jesus asks him "Do you want to be made well?" This reminds us that healing is not only about God's wish to heal; it is also about our ability to be receptive to that healing and, perhaps, not to dictate how that healing will come and what form it will take. How does this idea make you feel? Does it make sense?

The paralysed man tells Jesus that he has nobody to help him seek the healing of God by lifting him down to the pool. Are there people you regularly ignore, or think aren't deserving of attention. Can you express some love for them now by praying for them?

As you listen again to the reading, pay particular attention to other people's reactions to the healing.

Are there areas of your life which need healing? These need not be physical; they may also be mental or spiritual. Jesus asks us each and every day whether we want to be healed; to accept God's Will for us. Pray for that Grace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.