Jesus gives sight to a blind man!

There are <u>many</u> stories in the Bible of Jesus healing people who were blind. Life can be difficult today for anyone not able to see but in the time of Jesus it was very difficult indeed. There were no jobs or opportunities in those days for anyone who was blind, so blind people were poor and could only sit at the side of the road and beg other people for food and money. Blindness and other disabilies were seen as a sign of sin and punishment from God, so no one cared about those who were blind or wanted anything to do with them.

You can imagine then very easily how much it would have meant to a blind person to be healed by Jesus. So picture the blind man from today's miracle story. His name is Bartimaeus and he is sitting in rags by the side of the road begging people to give him some money. Suddenly he hears a lot of excited talk and he knows the crowd has got bigger. Then he hears that Jesus is passing. He calls out in a loud voice: 'Jesus, have mercy on me'. People who are near him tell him to be quiet but he needs Jesus to see him and hear him, so he shouts in an even louder voice: 'Jesus have mercy on me'. And then it happens. Jesus does hear him and he stops walking and tells those around him to call Bartimaeus over to him. Now the crowd of people around Bartimaeus tell him to get up, that Jesus is calling him.

Bartimaeus throws off his cloak and jumping up, comes to Jesus. Jesus asks him 'What do you want me to do for you?' and Bartimaeus says, 'Teacher, let me see again'. Jesus tells him 'Go, your faith has made you well' and immediately the blind man can see and follows Jesus on his way through the town.

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine what it would be like not to be able to see. Then imagine Jesus coming and giving you back your sight. How do you think you would feel? How would you thank Jesus for his great gift? Now thank Jesus for all the wonderful gifts and talents he has given you!