

Faith at Home - for Families



Lent 4, Sunday March 22

In the Gospel reading set for today, we hear the story of The Man Born Blind, (John 9:1 – 41). In the story Jesus claims “I am the Light of the World.” And the reading from Ephesians encourages Christians to live as Children of the Light. (Ephesians 5:8-14)

Churches and cathedrals often have stained glass windows to enjoy the beauty of coloured light, or big plain glass windows that allow lots of natural light into the building. The light streaming in reminds us of Jesus, the Light of the World, and that we are invited to live as children of the light.

In Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand, an unexpected and terrible thing happened in 2011. A powerful earthquake destroyed the cathedral in the centre of the city. Since then a transitional cathedral has been built, out of cardboard! The architect hopes the building will last about 30 years while it's decided whether to rebuild the cathedral from more resilient materials.

What can we do in these days sheltering from the pandemic in our world? How can we be creative and imagine a new way of being church, offering compassion and care to our church community, our neighbours, our friends and teachers at school, and our world? What is your church community doing to be the Body of Christ and following Jesus, the Light of the World?

Family craft activity

Have a look at the way the architect, Shigeru Ban, has created a contemporary “stained glass window”. You might like to make some stained glass for your home, and during this week, as you enjoy the coloured light, remember that we can live as children of the light in the kindness and care we show our neighbours, school teachers and friends, and our family.

Recycling plastic lids from take-away meals or dips can be transformed with colour and a [useful printable temple](#) to make “stained glass” to blutak to a window.

A [simpler activity](#) uses oil painted on to coloured paper shapes to blutak on a window.

Pray together

Loving God, we thank you that Jesus brings light into our world. May we, too, bring light and hope to others through our actions, as we follow Jesus' way of kindness, justice and love for all people.

Amen.

Cathedrals usually stand as enduring monuments to human skill and inventiveness, and magnificent pointers to the presence of God among us. Their websites will tell you how they are the oldest, the largest, the tallest or the most significant of their kind. Christchurch Cathedral is slightly different. The original Cathedral was badly damaged in

the Christchurch earthquake in February 2011.

The Transitional Cathedral in Latimer Square, Christchurch is the world's only cathedral made substantially of cardboard.

You can [download the image here](#).

