

3rd Saturday in Lent

Listen carefully to the words of Hosea. It is almost as if the prophet was writing directly to us **today**: *'Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us; he has struck us down, but he will bandage our wounds; after a day or two he will bring us back to life, on the third day he will raise us and we shall live in his presence.* The call Jesus makes to us to be humble - a word used so often in ignorance and misunderstanding - is about recognising who we are. The root word of humility is ***being grounded - of the earth***. We are of the earth and it is God who breathed life into us. We are by our very nature created humble. Being humble means recognising this reality not becoming something else. The present plague we face is a forceful reminder of our utter dependence on God as did the publican in our story. The prophet reminds us that God does not want our destruction but our healing and wholeness – We are right, therefore, to place our full trust and confidence in God. The heart that beats within us beats with the presence of God. This is what the publican understood and so do we!!