

29.10.73
14.11.74 ✓
24.10.77 ✓

Lord Our God (Flare 14) • OUR FATHER
In Paradisum (Duffell
ERA 014)
Day by Day (RHK
CBS)

I suppose there must probably be, among you who listen to this programme, at least a few who suffer from blindness, total or partial: a disability and handicap that those who can see find it very hard to imagine for themselves (I don't say "visualise" there, which indicates ^{just} how much and unwittingly we do rely on sight even to express intellectual and emotional understanding). Many of us are perhaps aware of how unnecessarily difficult life is often made for blind people, here in HK particularly, where very little provision is made in public places for instance, for people with any kind of handicap, and where they've to cope not only with apathy of people to give them any courtesy and consideration but also with ~~some~~ ^{deliberate} hindrance and cruelty sometimes. For blind people, I suppose the modern invention that is the most valuable, opening up a new world for them, is Radio — since other things like cinema, TV, colour printing are so on on of little or no benefit at all. It's one of the great advantages of radio (often unrecognised and unused) that it relies on sound alone: in effect, it leaves us all blind, having to listen without distraction, to use our imagination, to concentrate attention when you just want it to be background sound. It's quite true that your reaction or attention to what I am saying now would be different, maybe very different, if you could see me as well, for it wd. be coloured by other things which aren't really relevant to what I'm saying. The world we see is quite another thing, which most of us never think of thinking God for. Not to have this experience must surely be a great deprivation and disability. So, most of us can only guess at the intensity, the urgency, the conviction of that man in the gospel who wanted desperately to meet Jesus: when

he was asked by Jesus "What do you want me to do for you", there was no hesitation: "Let me receive my sight". What a revelation that must have been for him, when he did receive it, because of his faith in Jesus. Anyone with a physical disability would have the same urgent prayer — they know what they need, what they have not got. But Christ's purpose was not just what we now call rehabilitation of the handicapped: nor was it just social work. The disabilities of mankind which we all know about because they are so obvious to our eyes He used as a kind of parable in His curing of them, of the deeper, more radical disabilities which we're often blind to and which He came to offer us freedom from. For there is so much that we don't see, even in the obvious world around us: so much that we don't want to see, that we refuse to see. We're not aware of our blindness, really, so we don't know what to ask for in our prayers. "What do you want me to do for you?": what is your answer to that question of Jesus? Do we know what we, individually or as a community, really need? We can see with our eyes: many times we're not seeing at all with the eyes of our minds, of our hearts. And there isn't an urgency in our prayer for mercy, because (maybe) what's really wrong is that we don't realise that we are disabled at all. Think about it, prayerfully, for a few minutes now, [listening to a song for today, "Don't be afraid" "Don't worry" MUSIC - PRAYERS] while we listen to a prayer, for this month, from the Requiem: a prayer for those who have died, but also in another sense perhaps for ourselves too — as it uses the imagery of ~~vision~~ ^{vision} again: may eternal light shine for them, Lord, in the company of your saints for ever.

In Love 1?
Med. Mass. 2nd.
14: 2.40

MUSIC (Lux Aeterna)
- Duffell
PRAYERS to end...