



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10th / 11th February 2018

Parish Administrator

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Fran Kernaghan

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
9.30am

First Tuesday of the month: 11.00 am Mass
at Mercy Place.

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661

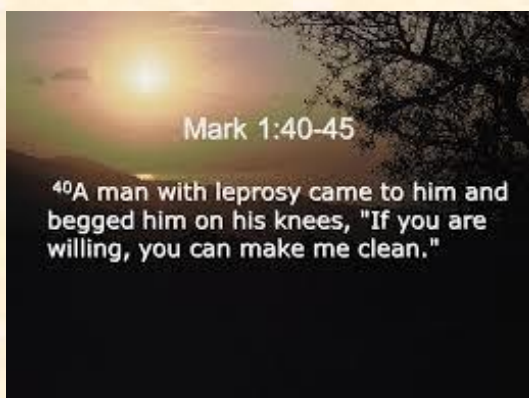


Lepers were social outcasts forced to live outside the villages and towns. Jesus heals the leper, allowing him to return to communal living, but, in touching him, Jesus put himself on the outer. The Gospel says that Jesus 'had to stay outside where nobody lived'. Jesus willingly changed places with the leper!

This incident prefigures the deepest mystery and scandal of the Gospel. Because of our deliberate wrongdoing, we are 'on the outside' with God. Our Lord and Saviour willingly experienced that alienation on Calvary, *outside* the walls of Jerusalem, in a desolate place where no-body lived. He suffered the dis-locating consequences of sin in his body and mind: 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?'

He took our place outside the human awareness of the loving presence of His Heavenly Father so that we might be located in the right place, *insiders* with God.

We might pause for a moment to lovingly thank our Saviour for leading us into 'the One in Whom we live and move and have our being'. (Fr Michael Tate)



Parish Community



We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Julie Yonson (Wendy McFerran's sister), Neale Austen, Jean Hutt.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bill Gibbs, Matthew O'Brian, John Powell, Rev T Desmond, William Shanahan, Edith Ryan, Claude Jones, Stephen Ratcliffe, Birute Valys, Peter Rothe, Connie Murphy, Alice Butler, Catherine McCormack, Ena Gale, Herbert O'Callaghan, Shirley Pantling, Arthur Campbell, Keith Clancey, Des Healy, Claude Gilson, Alma Whitehead, Pauline Blissett, Arthur Scott, Noel Flanagan, Kath Dowling Hubert Newhauser, Vin Griffiths Snr, Alice Frauenfelder, George & Margaret Azzi.

Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer for the Sick

We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.

May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.

We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 10th/ 11th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Virginia Mitsch	Terry Hillman
Lector 1	Kellie Gordes	Richard Parkinson
Lector 2	Barbara Godde	Leanne Michael
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim & Kaye Deanshaw	Pamela McIntosh Mary Lefevre MACE Sisters
Cantor	Catherine Cutler & Judy Lindsay / Judy Foley	Anne McIntyre Val Hayes
Counters: Desmond Lum & Jane Togher Church Cleaning: Group 5		

Sat/Sun: 17th / 18th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Colleen Day	Rosalie Martin
Lector 1	Karen Purtle	Michael Stephenson
Lector 2	Michael Byrnes	Wendy McFerran
Eucharistic Ministers	Judy Lindsay Pat Hopkins	Kevin Kennedy Trish Parkinson Kansas Michael
Cantor	John Van Lint	TBA
Musicians	Mary Hunt	Val Hayes
Counters: Peter Toner & Gordon Bryant Cleaning Group: Group 6		

Prayer of Abandonment

Father,
I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you:
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul;
I offer it to you
with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord,
and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands,
without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.
(Charles de Foucauld)

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

'The Word of Christ is intended to reach out to everyone, in particular those who live in the peripheries of existence, so that they might find in Him the centre of their life and the source of hope. '

Parish News



As we approach the holy season of Lent may the concern of the Catholic community be one of love and compassion for all members of the human family. Guide us to act in solidarity with those most marginalised and vulnerable to injustice so together we can work for a just future for all.

Included in this week's parish newsletter is a range of activities relevant to individuals and families during the journey of Lent.

Project Compassion 'For A Just Future'

Project Compassion boxes/envelopes are now available at entrances to Church.

In this year's Project Compassion, Caritas Australia celebrates A Just Future for all in conjunction with the Year of Youth.

Through your generosity during Project Compassion this year, you are empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.

Palms Australia Encounters in 2018

These encounters are ethically run group tours that provide participants with authentic, hard to come by experiences. They give an insight into the daily life of people of another culture. The dates are: 11– 23 March, Timor Leste; 18-30 May, Samoa; 20 May– 1 June; Timor Leste; 2-14 Sept, Timor Leste. Phone 02 9560 5333 for more information.

Feast Days during the Week

Wednesday 14th February—Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

Fr Jim Victory will celebrate Eucharist with us this Wednesday 14 February at 9.30am. This enables Fr Martin to return to Finley/Tocumwal to offer services in those faith communities.

Masses this week at 9.30am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

An Ash Wednesday Paraliturg will be celebrated at St Anne's in school hall at 11.45am. All welcome.

Prayer for Our Sacred Heart Parish

God of Love,

Source of all hope and good things;
You call us in love, to share in the work
and ongoing life of our Sacred Heart
Parish.

Bless this parish of ours and lead us to be
confident and joyful in serving those
around us, so that through us, the world
may catch a glimpse of the love you have
for each one of us.

Make us instruments of your love to
everyone that we encounter in our parish
community, at home, at work and in our
neighbourhood.

Help us to grow in gratitude so that we
can recognise and thank you for all the
good things you have given us.

Each day may we come to know you more
clearly, love you more dearly and follow
you more nearly.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Sixth Sunday of the Year—Year B

Readings: Lev 13: 1-2,44-46; 1 Cor 10: 31—11:1 ; Mk 1: 40-45

Responsorial Psalm:



***I turn to you, Lord in time of trouble and you will
fill me with the joy of salvation.***

Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;

God has visited his people.

Alleluia



Reflection on the Readings

It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.

To be a leper in 1st Century Palestine was to be utterly rejected from society. They were not permitted to engage in religious practice as they were permanently regarded as being ritually unclean and, indeed, unable to become clean as long as their disease lasted. The book of Leviticus, quoted in today's first reading, contains two whole chapters of rules regarding lepers. Lepers were forced to live outside of any village for fear of contamination and even had to call out a warning of 'Unclean! Unclean!' if anyone came near them. They were forced to beg for food and money because no-one would hire them. They were literally on the very edge of society.

There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God and made in the image and likeness of God. Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? (Greg Sunter)

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