

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – February 11th

THE Sixth SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B

The readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time for Year B demonstrate the healing power of Jesus and his ability to rid us of what is unclean in our lives. The first reading tells what should be done if someone has leprosy, and how being unclean separates us from others. The Gospel recalls how Jesus healed a leper.

RECENT DEATHS: Sheila Morrison

ANNIVERSARIES

Monica Feruglio, Bill Barwick, Mary Slater, Robbie McArthur, SrM Louis Elwood, Beth Jones, Bert Orr, Paul Clarke, Francis Hinchcliffe, Harry Buncle, Edna Agnusz Ray Bord, George Daniels, Winnie Broadbent, Harold Dawson, Charles (Mick) Broadbent, John Thompson, Maise Stickland, Bill Alexander, John Liston & Martin Molloy.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Tony Collins, and Jim Mahony and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER

Introduction & Reading

Today: Angela Gerrard

Feb 18th: Bernadette Franc

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Carita Clancy

Feb 18th: John Jess

Assembly Leaders

Feb 18th: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

Feb 18th: Gail Hall

Music: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

Feb 4th & 11th: Chandler Family

Feb 18th & 25th: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

Church Grounds

Feb 4th & 11th: Chandler Family

Feb 18th & 25th: Charlie Franc & Peter Milenkovic

Newsletter

February: Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

MASS TIMES

Feb 18th; **LLA 10.00am**

Ash Wednesday Mass: Tuesday Feb 13th at 7.00 pm

Pope's intention for February: – *For the terminally ill: Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.*

UPCOMING DATES for 2024

Shrove Tuesday February 13th–Uniting Church 10.30am.

World Day of Prayer; March 1st for Beaufort Faith Communities.-Uniting Church. More info to follow

Mass of the Oils; Monday March 25th at St Particks Cathedral 11.30am



Project Compassion 2024

Lent fundraising: Caritas Australia, the international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia, launch Project Compassion 2024. As many of you know, Caritas works with people living in the most vulnerable situations around the world and helps those living in poverty regardless of their ethnicity, religion or political beliefs. Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. During the six weeks of Project Compassion, millions of Australians unite to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. This year, Caritas Australia celebrates 60 years of service.

World Day of the Sick: Sunday, February 11, 2024



In his message to mark the 32nd World Day of the Sick on February 11, Pope Francis reflected on the way serious illness could cause vulnerability, uncertainty and insecurity. For resources and to read Pope Francis' message, go to the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

AN URGENT PRAYER FOR PEACE by Michael McGirr

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts, as we consider the needs of your family. Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people, each of us loved by You and called to live in peace and justice. We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of property and loss of human dignity. We are pained by so much suffering. We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place. Help your people find a way forward. Enable everyone to look each other in the eye, and embrace each other as sisters and brothers, as they find Your image in every face. We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser and more gentle future, where everyone has a home. God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

11 FEBRUARY 2024

BE AS CHRIST

Today's Gospel brings our focus again to Jesus' healing through a person identified only as "a leper". This person is described without gender (although masculine pronouns follow), without ethnicity, family name, geography or any human connection. The title "a leper" encapsulates the stigma of separation, being unclean and having to live apart (see Lev. 13, first reading). We read that "a leper" came to Jesus pleading on his knees, "If you want to you can make me clean" (v. 40). This phrase indicates that "a leper" recognises Jesus' power and authority. Moved with the deepest gut-wrenching compassion, Jesus reaches out his hand and touches him. Simultaneously with his touch, Jesus says "I do choose. Be made clean" (v. 41). Jesus' touch is redeeming in itself. Jesus touches the untouchable. Though warned not to say anything and show himself to the priest, the person "went out and began to proclaim freely and spread the word" (v. 45). We witness "a leper" becoming a proclaimer of the Good News. In our world today there are people with titles like "a leper", as we have "homeless" or "refugee" among us bereft of identity and dignity, untouchable. How can we "touch" like Jesus?

Paul's words to the Corinthians invite us to take him as the model as he takes Christ. This invitation together with the healing of one on the margins calls us to be as Christ, open to all and to be agents of healing wounds and separation.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Lev 13: 1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprosy: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 31: 1-2, 5, 11. R. v. 5

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

- Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,/ whose sin is remitted./ O happy the man to whom the Lord/ imputes no guilt,/ in whose spirit is no guilt. **R.**
- But now I have acknowledged my sins;/ my guilt I did not hide./ I said: 'I will confess/ my offence to the Lord./' And you, Lord, have forgiven/ the guilt of my sin. **R.**
- Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,/ exult, you just!/ O come, ring out your joy,/ all you upright of heart. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 10: 31-11: 1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 7: 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.

Alleluia!