

FAITH @Home

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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love
in the heart of the family!



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6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 31(32): 1-2, 5,11

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel:

Mark 1:40-45

"The leprosy left him at once and he was cured"



Niels Larsen Stevns, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings [here](#).

Through the healing of the leper by Jesus, the Gospel writer is posing us a question: "Who is this man Jesus?". The close bond that exists between Jesus and the Father means that Jesus has the power to heal those who are sick.

Watch this [scene from *The Chosen*](#) movie which powerfully depicts Jesus healing the leper in today's Gospel.

Family Challenge!

Take a walk together as a family this weekend within your 5k. Bring a small plastic bag with you and if you see any rubbish on the ground pick it up and bring it home to be recycled!

Talk

Leprosy was a very scary disease in Jesus' day. It was so contagious that people who had the disease had to live very far away from everyone they knew and they could not see or visit their families.

For almost a year we have been living in a pandemic that has kept us away from others. Take some time to share what this experience has been like for you and where you see God in all of it. What has it been like for you to be away from your family and friends outside of your house during the pandemic?

Pray

Write down one or two things you would like Jesus to heal in your life or in someone else's life. Call to mind Jesus' response to the leper when praying for them this week.

Check out page 3 for a picture from today's Gospel to print and colour!

MISSION! The leper knew he could ask Jesus to heal Him because Jesus was God. Let's pray this week for people to believe more in Jesus' power and love, especially those who are finding lockdown really hard.

LEARN
"JESUS IS THE
HEALER"



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JESUS SETS US A CHALLENGE

"Unclean". That word stands out in both the First Reading and Gospel today, the 14th of February. This is the day many call Valentine's Day, a day when people profess love for one another. Maybe it is appropriate as the Gospel today is about a proclamation of love.

It would be easy to criticise or ignore the reading from Leviticus but to be fair, it is stating the law of that time in regards to the skin illness called leprosy. "Unclean", isolated and marginalised, lepers were banished by their community, standing out as different, not wanted, not loved.

Then we come to the Gospel, telling us of a leper in despair, unclean, not wanted nor loved. Jesus knew the Law from beginning to end and remember what he said, "I have come not to abolish the law but to complete it". He could have "walked by on the other side". He didn't walk by or ignore the man. He welcomed him, he reached out and touched him, a simple yet profound gesture of intimacy. He reached out to the man and accepted him as a child of God. He saw beyond the sores in to the pain in the man's heart. There was healing and love.

The Gospel and Jesus always set us a challenge. How do you and I regard the "lepers" of our time, those we deem not welcome, wanted, nor loved, those we prefer to be unseen or cast to the margins? Just like Jesus, we must see beyond the externals in to the heart where the real person is with their store of goodness. We must accept and love them. Anything less and we fall short of the Gospel values of Jesus.

By Fr Gerry Chestnutt

EVENTS

Quo Vadis

Lenten Series for young adults aged 18 - 35 who are seeking purpose and meaning in their lives. Every Sunday from 7 - 8pm, 14th Feb - 28th March. Testimonies from guest speakers, time for prayer, chat, discussion and getting to know other young Catholic adults. Contact youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie or click here to register:

<https://forms.gle/kpPs8niwFXChT6jM8>



Family Prayer

Lord Jesus, You showed such love and compassion for the leper in today's Gospel. We bring you any hurts and wounds we have in our family, any areas that need Your healing touch. If you want to, you can heal us. We trust in Your love and mercy. Amen



Carlo's Corner

IF YOU WANT TO, YOU CAN HEAL ME

"Your Father in heaven is not afraid of your mess. We do not have a God who loves us "in spite" of our messes, we have a God Who loves us in the midst of them." Mark Hart

Blessed Carlo Acutis - Pray for us!



Leprosy, especially in the time of Jesus, was a terrible disease. Not only did the physical body decay and waste away, but lepers suffered terribly emotionally, as they were cast out from society, never again to have contact with their families or loved ones, a permanent isolation unless they could be cured.

None of us suffer from leprosy, but we definitely all can suffer from wounds in our hearts. Words that have cut us deeply, others letting us down, our own failures and weaknesses. Jesus doesn't turn away from our wounds: He wants us to know that He loves us, and wants to heal any hurts. He's not afraid of the messiness of our lives. He's the One who can bring real peace, forgiveness and comfort. We just need to ask Him. Check out:



[Sr Miriam James: "Overcoming Fear"](#)



[LifeTeen: Can God Heal Me? Blog!](#)



[Tune: "Broken Vessels" - Hillsong](#)

CHECK IT OUT: ONLINE WITH SAINTS



Imagine you could meet and greet a saint, which saint would you choose? Online with Saints (#OnlineSaints) offers a virtual encounter with 100+ saints from all around the world. Get ready to meet and greet the saints through their social media account! The app "Online with Saints" offers a virtual encounter with saints from all around the world : their inspiring life stories are linked to real life modern questions, and together with them answers are found.





*I do choose.
Be made clean!*

*If you choose, you can
make me clean.*