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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR B

13TH & 14TH FEBRUARY, 2021

WEARING OF MASKS FOR MASS

On consideration of the most recent NSW Health advice, the Diocese of Parramatta still highly recommends all worshippers at Masses in the Diocese to wear a mask to, during and from Mass and other services.

We understand the inconvenience that masks may pose, but the health of our parishioners and the wider community is our highest concern.

We sincerely thank you for understanding, and for playing your part in keeping our community safe.

WEEKEND MASSES

You are now invited to attend Mass **every week** at the time you were allocated by Fr Chris.

THERE IS A CAP OF 100 PEOPLE AT ALL RELIGIOUS SERVICES HELD AT PLACES OF WORSHIP.

Online Masses are still available so if you are feeling unwell you are advised not to attend Mass.

WEEKDAY MASSES

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM (NO ADORATION)

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS AT 9.10AM

You are welcome to attend any of these Masses without a phone call or email invitation.

Fr Chris will record attendance at these Masses as per government guidelines.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT

Please contact Fr Chris on his mobile 0415 505 594 to make an appointment.

DUE TO COVID-19, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS PER MASS IN OUR PARISH CHURCH IS

110

PLEASE PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS.



As per government regulations, please observe the 2 square metre rule.

Please note that hand sanitiser is available at the Church entrances for use upon entering and exiting the Church.

BE COVIDSAFE



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

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Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

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Email: parishteam@corpuschristi.org.au

Presbytery: 4730 6258

Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm (Tues-Fri)

PARISH TEAM:

Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -
Parish Priest

Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org
Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers
- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottey - Parish Secretary
- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary - ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College - ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

Parish News

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Wednesday 17th February is Ash Wednesday.

Masses will be held here at our parish at
9.30AM, 6.00PM & 7.15PM.

Special Prayers for Sacrament Children

Please keep in your prayers the children of our parish who are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Remember also their families and our Sacrament leaders who encourage the children on their journey.



Sacrament Groups

A reminder that the first of two Reconciliation Group meetings will take place this week.
Please ensure that you attend your group meeting.

Parents of Sacrament Children

Final preparation for all children who are making their First Reconciliation will take place on

**FRIDAY 5TH MARCH FROM 3.30PM – 4.30PM
IN THE SCHOOL HALL.**

It is essential that all children attend. Please contact the parish office if there is a problem.

Parish Office Hours

**The Parish Office is now open on
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 3.30pm.**

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

Recently Deceased:


Jerry Kunczewicz (10/02/), Mary Pilley (*Michael Lyons's sister*)

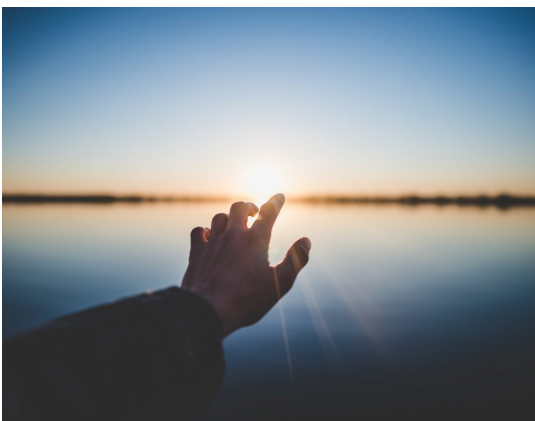
Mass Intentions:

Maria Aquilina, Josephine Portelli, Margaret & James Vella

And for those who are sick:

Leonard Ash, Pauline Rugg, Joan Schneider

 If any parishioner would like Fr Chris to offer Mass for someone who is recently deceased, a loved one's anniversary or if someone is sick, please email the Parish Office. We can also include the person in The Net so everyone can pray for them.



Parramatta Diocesan News

Office For Worship 2021 Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Office for Worship's Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be held again in 2021 in early February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving in the Liturgical Ministries of Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar at your parish. If you are interested or would like more information please contact call 8838 3456 or email anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org.

Institute for Mission Formation Programs

Interested or already involved in your parish community initiatives? Looking to explore key themes of the Catholic tradition? Express your interest today in the Institute for Mission's Reflective Ministry and Themes of Faith programs for your life and faith enrichment. They are 100% free and begin in early March in an online format. For more information, contact Sr Grace on 9296 6369 or grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au or Donnie on 0432042140 or donnie.velasco@ifm.org.au

Welcome to The Well

The Diocese of Parramatta proudly announces its latest initiative – *The Well*. In what can be described as 'Netflix for Catholics', *The Well* is a new online platform that provides free, 'on-demand' inspiration for families, children, young people and faith communities. Explore fresh offerings every week on topical issues that inform, entertain and challenge. Check it out at www.thewell.org.au

Glenbrook Parish Lenten Biblical Studies

Parish Priest Fr Joseph Lam will be running Lenten Biblical studies on the Passion of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Mark at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook.

- The Trial of Jesus – 23 February at 7.30pm;
- The Death of Jesus – 9 March at 7.30pm;
- The Resurrection of Jesus – 23 March at 7.30pm

Due to COVID restrictions, places are limited. To register, please contact secretary@stfinbars.org.au or call the parish office on (02) 4739 8928.

Positions Vacant:

- Natural Family Planning Educator (Casual) – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 19 February 2021**
 - Social Justice Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 5pm 22 February 2021**
- More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Join Bellringers of St Patrick's Cathedral

The Peal of Bells of St Patrick's Cathedral have been officially installed. Bell ringing commences 10.30am Sundays ahead of the Solemn Mass. If you would like to enquire about learning to ring the bells, please contact Fr Christopher Del Rosario on Christopher.Del-Rosario@parracatholic.org. For further information, please visit <https://stpatscathedral.com.au/bellofstpatricks/>

The Living Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

14th February 2021

First Reading

Lv 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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

(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 guile. *(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 glo-

ry 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. have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:40-45

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.



Historical Context – Leprosy

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.

Focus – What's in a word?

Verse Gospel 41 of this week's reading begins, 'Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand.' This translation is from the Jerusalem Bible but if we were to consider other translations of the Bible we would find other phrases used such as: moved with pity; filled with pity; moved with compassion; filled with compassion; or even, filled with anger. By comparison, 'Feeling sorry for him' seems a weak translation. Jesus' reaction is a fully human one of indignation at what this man is forced to endure. It is a gut-wrenching response from the very core of Jesus' humanity.

Living the Gospel – Who is your leper?

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? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus outcast for us

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'.



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

We know that we will all have to face some kind of suffering, and so we try to prepare ourselves for it. Yet when it comes, as prepared as we try to be, it can overtake us with such fury that we fall back defenceless. We look to others for support and assistance, and if we are fortunate, we find it. However, even in the most supportive of communities, suffering tends to alienate us from those who are healthy and secure. Suffering reminds us of our own finitude and the contingent nature of all of life. It threatens our sense of order.

Jesus is not deterred by human suffering. He welcomes all who approach him; his healing touch reincorporates those who have been ostracised; his loving embrace reassociates those who have been alienated. In the reign of God, there are no outsiders. All belong to Jesus, and, therefore, all belong to each other. When the one afflicted is embraced by the community, the community is an authentic manifestation of the inclusive reign of God.

In suffering we witness human vulnerability and our desperate need of each other and of God. There, at the edge of life and on the fringes of the community, we may experience the tenderness and compassion of God. The loving touch of Christ that can heal our souls, if not our bodies. It is there that we may most authentically participate in the cross of Christ. Joined to him we are anything but unproductive or worthless.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February

Universal intention - Violence against women



We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * Why was it such a brave move for someone with leprosy to approach Jesus?
- * Why was Jesus so moved by the man?
- * Why did Jesus order him to say nothing to anyone?
- * Who are the people in your community that are treated as 'outcasts'?
- * What would a 'Jesus-like' response to these people be?

Questions for Adults

- * Why was purity and cleanliness so important in Jewish society?
- * What are the equivalent taboos today?
- * Who are the 'lepers' of your community? Why?
- * What can we learn from Jesus' response to the man with leprosy?

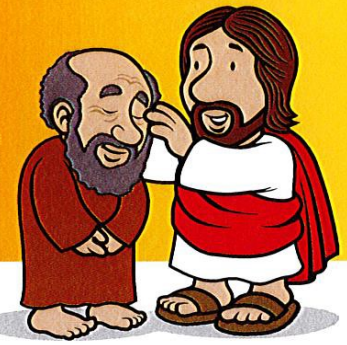


This is an opportunity for parents to discuss today's Gospel with your children. The following questions and worksheet are a beginning point to assist with the discussion.

- * In today's gospel who came to Jesus?
- * The man had a sickness which made him an outcast. What does it mean to be an outcast?
- * What did Jesus do when he met him?
- * Jesus showed compassion and kindness when others would have sent the man away.
- * What did the man do when he was cured?
- * What would it be like to be an outcast or an outsider?
- * Jesus asks us to be kind to outsiders. How can we show kindness to people who do not feel included?



Jesus has the power to heal



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

How were people with leprosy treated in Jesus' time?

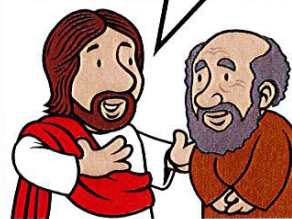
A large, empty rectangular box with a thick orange border, intended for a student to write their answer to the question about how people with leprosy were treated.

What are some things we can do for sick people today?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick orange border, intended for a student to write their answer to the question about things we can do for sick people today.

What did Jesus say to the man after he cured him of leprosy? Use the words below to find out!

Say _____ of this to anyone;
but go and _____ yourself to the
_____, then make an offering
at the _____ as Moses
_____, then all will know
you are _____.



**temple show
commanded
healed nothing
priest**

Jesus showed God's power by healing the leper. Draw a picture from one of the following stories where God's power is shown by what Jesus did.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick red border, intended for a student to draw a picture from one of the Bible stories listed in the adjacent book illustration.


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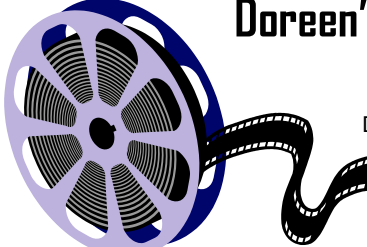
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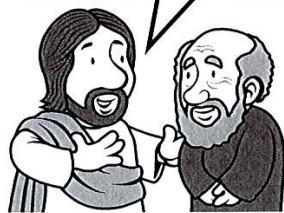
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Solutions

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

What did Jesus say to the man after he cured him of leprosy? Use the words below to find out!

Say **nothing** of this to anyone;
but go and **show** yourself to the
priest, then make an offering
at the **temple** as Moses
commanded, then all will know
you are **healed**.



temple **show**
commanded
nothing
healed **priest**