

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

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



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

11 FEBRUARY 2024

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 leprous: 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.

1. 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.**
2. 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.**
3. 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!

11 Feb 2024

Wk 6 Yr B

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>

Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.

Office Hrs: Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

Administration Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden

Presbytery 67658211

Sacristan Elaine Smyth

Pastoral Associate 0411703608

School Principals Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am Sun: 5pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: 12 noon Ash Wednesday

Thur: 9am Mass Fri: 12 noon Mass

CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm

*Or by appointment



ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

COMMUNION ANTI-PHON: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Therese Conroy RSJ, Margaret Hough, Anna Fordham, Kevin O'Toole, Marie Wren, Greg Mood, Patricia Mooney.

ANNIVERSARIES: John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Mary Davy (nee Barry (6/1), Mary Sampson(18/1), Ivan Lillcrap (18/1), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1), Julia Blanch (12/2), Dalis O'Brien (12/2), Maria Mood (16/2), Mavis Parsons (26/2).

DECEASED: Grzegorz (Greg) Jurek, Cathie Mencke, Gwen Gerathy, Les Wallworth (Sydney), Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

SICK: Sr Therese Conroy RSJ, Monica Austin, Colin MacPherson, Terry Dean, Barbara Brennan, Graeme Bussell, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, William Bonner, Fr Bernard Flood, John Betts.

VEENA'S VERSION:



My wife, a phlebotomist at the local hospital, entered a patient's room to draw blood. Noticing an apple on his nightstand, she remarked, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away, right?"

"That's true," he agreed. "I haven't seen a doctor in three days.!!"



*(A phlebotomist is a health worker responsible for collecting biological samples from patients)

COMING EVENTS:

13 Feb Shrove Tuesday

14 Feb Ash Wednesday mass at 12 noon

22 Feb St Peter's Chair Feast Mass at 12noon **9 Mar** Sr Maureen - RSJ Reflection Day 9.30 - 2 pm

DE LA SALLE ARMIDALE REUNION: All Ex-students of De La Salle College Armidale are invited to a School Reunion to be held In Armidale on Saturday 26th October THIS YEAR, which is the 50th Anniversary of the closing of the College as we knew it. We need to soon know NUMBERS coming! If you (wife/partner also welcome) intend to come please send a "YES" email to dlsarmidale@yahoo.com. to be put on invitees list. Limited seating for this special Reunion! More information - Pete Stanley, mob 0401745406. Other information will come to your email.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082 105

1st. Collection West Tamworth Presbytery (Diocesan collection) Acc No: 001023642

2nd Collection West Tamworth Church (St Pats Church) Acc No:001041198

"Gratitude is the memory of the heart." (1907)

MISSIONARY ORDERS SPECIAL COLLECTION For a number of years the diocese has taken up a special collection in support of the missionary work of the Orders of the La Salettes in the Philippines and the Rogationists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in India both who have priests ministering here in the Diocese of Armidale. The funds from these appeals have helped to support the marginalised people in the local areas where the La Salettes and Rogationists minister. The Missionary Orders Special Collection will be held this Sunday 11 February .

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK: On 11 February, 2024, we will celebrate the 32nd Annual World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Pope Saint John Paul II initiated this special day of remembrance in 1992 and Popes Benedict and Francis have continued the tradition. The day has a dual focus on those who are sick and on those who care for them. The theme for the 32nd World Day of the Sick 2024 is: "It is not good that man should be alone—Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships," Pope Francis says, "The sick, the vulnerable and the poor are at the heart of the Church; they must also be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention. May we never forget this!"

LENTEN GROUPS: Ash Wednesday is this coming week. If you would like to join a Lenten group, please contact the office by email or phone, or complete the sheet at the back of the church.

LENT 2024 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES: Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here:

<https://BruceDownes.org/Lent> Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

REFLECTION EVENT 9 MARCH: Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom - Pope Francis invites us to journey with God this Lent. During the day there will be the opportunity to open up the Lenten Message of Pope Francis as we reflect on his words, inviting us to grow to greater freedom.

PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP

God our Father, in Jesus, your Son,

You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest, prophet and king, and so You have blessed us through His sacrifice, taught us through His Word, and guided us through His rule.

We ask You, Father, to guide and enlighten those who will be tasked with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese.

May the person they choose be one of deep and true prayer, a person of a compassionate heart and firm resolve,

and a person of joy and peace, who desires above all to do Your will.

We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen



WEEK 2 ROSTER: 11/2/24

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn N Pullman

9am Sun: R S Brown R Paull

5.00pm Sun: R A O'Halloran C Lavell

Counting Team R Paull, A Bowden

Fri Cleaning 16/2 M Brown K O'Brien

Altar Linen: M Vella

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 18/2/24

Vigil: R D Gowing D Bolitho

9am Sun: R M Holley A Sartori

5.00pm Sun: R J Moloney D Bearman

Counting Team O & J Whale; A Bowden

Fri Cleaning 23/2 J Hutt J Moran

Altar Linen: E Smyth

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations people to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

