

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

Please note that the reflections sometimes use examples that come from an American context

February 14, 2021

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 | 1 Cor 10:31—11:1 | Mk 1:40-45

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

While leprosy as found in Biblical times is now rare and very treatable, it is not hard to imagine the tragic consequences it had on those who were affected. They suffered physically, but also socially and emotionally: Levitical priests declared lepers unclean, banishing them from the religious community. Jesus, as he did so often, would upend these conventions in his encounter with the leper in today's Gospel. "Moved with pity," Jesus healed him, telling him to return to the local priest for readmittance to the community. Jesus' model of compassion for the man is meant for us to embody. Modern culture continues to stigmatize people perceived as different – those suffering from depression and other mental illnesses, the homeless, perhaps those who struggle with cognitive disabilities – shunning them in different ways from full participation in community. To imitate Christ, as Paul alludes, is to have compassion for the needs of others – to "be moved with pity." Let us pray for the grace to put on the mind and heart of Christ, and dignify the presence of all our brothers and sisters in our community.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I admit I was taken aback by today's Old Testament reading: Not only were lepers banished from the religious community, but they had to announce themselves by crying out "Unclean, unclean!" Jesus changed all that. He healed the leper, encouraging him to return to the priest for readmittance. I am struck by how the leper approached Jesus. He did not demand a cure, but asked, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Although it is unlikely that any of us in the developed world will experience leprosy, we ourselves or people we know may carry inner struggles that have led to separation from the Church or a sense of isolation. In our humanity, we do not have the power to heal these maladies on our own. Instead, let us come to Jesus as the leper does, asking him, if he wills it, to heal us and our wounded world. Let us pray with confidence, knowing that Jesus in his compassion can and will make us clean and whole.

REFLECT Who are today's lepers? What are the inner struggles or wounds that may keep us from fully participating in our parish community or have left us estranged from members of our own family? Bring these before Jesus in your own words. Call a family member you have fallen out of touch with. Invite a person who has left the Church to lunch and listen with compassion.





Ash Wednesday

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. It is a day of fast and abstinence and marks the beginning of our lenten penances. Everyone of age 14 and above must **abstain** from consuming meat. Everyone of age 18 to having begun their 60th year must **fast**, unless exempt due to usually a medical reason.

Since we are still in lockdown there is not the possibility of distribution of ashes this year. Mass will be streamed online at 10am and link below will take you to a service that can be prayed at home.

<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/2370/documents/2021/2/Ash%20Wednesday%20Service%202021-%20wordoc.pdf>

Thursday Mass Time

From this week, Mass on a Thursday will be celebrated at 7pm.

Online Services

During the lockdown, please continue to join together in our celebration of Mass each day.

Sunday Mass at 10am

Weekdays (ex Thur) at 10am

Thursday at 7pm

Saturday at 10am

Devotions will take place this week at 5pm on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

The Rosary of Intercession for Priests will take place at the conclusion of Mass on Thursday evening.

Virtual Coffee Morning

After Sunday Mass, beginning at 11am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4355897940?pwd=NnVuYmpjc2kySnZOcjA5Q2l0Z05QQT09>

Day of Prayer for those who have suffered abuse

Friday of this week is the day of Prayer for those who have suffered abuse. This will be reflected in our Mass and Devotions on Friday.

A prayer service that can be celebrated at home is available using this link

<https://www.bcos.org.uk/Portals/0/2021%20Day%20of%20Prayer%20for%20those%20who%20have%20suffered%20abuse%20-%20Prayers%20at%20home.pdf>

Thank You

For your continuing donations to support the parish over these past months. While these are essential for us, for many people this is a difficult time and everything that you give is very, very gratefully received and much appreciated

While the building closed, donations can be made in various ways -

- many people have started using Standing Orders, the forms are available on our website and should be returned to Fr. Jim.
- Online donations can be made through online offertory button on our website.

Give yourself time. Try Alpha

#TryAlpha



Our Parish Council Evangelisation Group are organising an Alpha Course, beginning on Ash Wednesday evening at 7.15 pm and running on Wednesdays during Lent and Easter.

Alpha is a great opportunity to explore consider the heart of our faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. Each week there will be a combination of a video and a Zoom chat. . Gathering once a week over a ten-week period, each Alpha brings together people from every walk of life. These are strange times but also a good opportunity to reflect again about what is important to us.

Sign up using this link: <https://stcharlespaisley.flocknote.com/AlphaOnline2021>

- If you are legitimately out of the house for exercise or some other reason, then envelopes can be posted through the Church House letterbox.

SPRED Special Second Collection - 14 February 2021

Our Paisley Diocese SPRED offers people with learning disabilities: a personal friend who takes time to share life and faith, spiritual nurture in a small community of faith; and a sense of belonging to a parish community. Twenty-one SPRED groups meet in our church halls and special needs schools, allowing two hundred parishioners to come together in faith and friendship to share and experience God's love. Sadly, our groups have not been able to meet in the past year due to the pandemic. Paisley SPRED supports three employees. In 2018 SPRED merged with the Diocese bringing in one-off restricted reserves of £95,492. Our SPRED boxes and Friends Campaign raised

an additional £20,834 bringing the total income to £116,326. The Diocese also contributed £44,131 from our General Fund (pre-merger) and Papal & Episcopal Funds. With our expenditure of £72,221, SPRED restricted reserves ended the year at £88,235.

If you wish to donate to SPRED then please donate through the online offertory on the Diocesan website. This can also be reached through our own website offertory link.

Adult Education Talks

You are invited to our next talk on **Monday 15th February at 6.30pm** on The Dignity of the Human Person by **Fr. Matthew Carlin**. Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/93728594532?pwd=RXFvNzRHOHlxbHZzb1VtTXJjUUNvUT09>

Passcode: 886983

Vocations

Think Vocation: Jesus heals a leper because of his compassion and his desire to heal him. Could your compassion for people and desire to share Christ's healing love with them lead you to give yourself to them as a priest, deacon or in a religious community? Speak to Fr. John Morrison on 01418895056 or e-mail vocations@rcdop.org.uk

Online Marriage Counselling available during Covid 19 Crisis

Our diocese has a Counselling Service for Catholics Married in the Catholic Church with our dedicated Catholic Marriage Counsellor. If you are concerned about your relationship and feel you are both unable to reach a conclusion alone, it is likely that you will benefit from marriage counselling. The counsellor is there to maintain a neutral, non-judgmental position. For information or advice please email in confidence counselling@rcdop.org.uk

Craig Lodge, Dalmally, Mission House for Young Adults

Craig Lodge Community is offering a new opportunity to young Catholics on how to live a life of mission. Craig Lodge Mission House is a nine-month residential programme for any young adult between the ages of 18-30 who desires to become a passionate lover of Jesus and become *Spirit-filled evangelisers for the renewal of the Church,*" (Pope Francis). *Community, prayer and studying of the Catholic faith and learning to proclaim the Good News to others*". The mission house will begin in September 2021 and applications are now being accepted. Visit the Craig Lodge website for more details. www.craiglodge.org/missionhouse 200 Club

We will be running the 200 Club in the coming year, therefore:

1. If you still wish to take part and already pay monthly through your bank, this will simply continue.
2. If you wish to make a one-off payment, or join for the first time, please contact Joseph McKeeman on 07760 542275 or email joseph.mckeeman@btinternet.com for details on how to do this.
3. If you need a note of your number, or have any other enquiries, please contact Joseph (as above).

Online Theology Thursdays! Monthly, 5.00-6.00pm

25 February 'Will the Sacraments change my life?' integrating the sacramental and moral dimensions of Christian living. Fr Martin Delaney: 25 March: Forming intentional disciples in our Catholic schools. Mary O'Duffin: 9 April: Reading St Mark: The Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Fr Andrew Garden: 20 May: Holy Disobedience: Catholic Political Witness and Resistance: Anna Blackman. Theology Thursdays is a programme of seminars aimed at non-experts and beginners. Each seminar has a theological focus, lasts for one hour and is taught by an expert in the field. It may be of interest to teacher educators, teachers, parents, catechists, students and senior school pupils. To book your place and receive the ZOOM link, please email: education-st-andrews-foundation@glasgow.ac.uk Circle of Prayer