

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**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.**

COLLECT

O God, who teach us that you abide
in hearts that are just and true,
grant that we may be so fashioned by your
grace
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 13:1-2.44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

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

Response:

**You are my refuge, O Lord;
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 guile. (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 10:31-11:1

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

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

**May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,**

**So that we can see what hope his call
holds for us.**

Alleluia.

GOSPEL 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse and renew us
and may it become for those who do your
will
the source of eternal reward.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave
them;
they were not disappointed in what they
craved.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,
we pray, O Lord,
that we may always long
for that food by which we truly live.
Through Christ our Lord.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



What is the sacrament of anointing? Have
you ever personally experienced the
sacrament? How has the sacrament changed
in recent years from extreme unction to
anointing?

Do you think people who experience the
sacrament of anointing feel a sense of
comfort from the experience? What are the
elements of this sacrament that would bring
someone comfort?

Do you think that most people who receive
this sacrament have an expectation of
instantaneous healing? How can this
sacrament benefit someone's faith life?

Why do you pray for healing? Can healing
come about as a result of prayer? From
whom does healing come: From the person
praying or from the healing power of God
directed to the sick person?

Why don't people pray more frequently for
spiritual healing, as well as for physical
healing? Do you think most people could
use prayer for spiritual healing?

*What role does the faith community play in
celebrating the sacrament of anointing?
How often do you think this sacrament
should be celebrated in a faith community?
Why?*

GOSPEL ACTION

*Find out when your faith community will
have its next anointing rite and plan to
attend. Visit a sick person this week and
offer to pray with them.*

Readings – 1st Sunday Lent Year B

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Second Reading: Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Homily

14th February 2021 – 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Dear friends, Wednesday is Ash Wednesday when we begin the season of Lent a penitential time for us to prepare for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. With the current restrictions there will be no individual distribution of ashes this year, I will be ashed and receive the ashes on behalf of everybody in the parish. However, the symbol of the ashes is just the same, we are asked to *'Repent, and believe the Gospel'* and over the next few Lenten weeks we will reflect on how we can prepare ourselves and get ready for Easter this year.

The theme that runs through the Gospel and the first reading this weekend is leprosy. In biblical times leprosy was believed to be highly contagious; lepers were forced to live outside the community and they were known as the *untouchables*. They lived a very lonely existence, they were forced to leave home, family and friends and were treated as outcasts. People believed that they were cursed by God and they considered them to be not only sick but also unclean.

This was the kind of man that approached Jesus, he shouldn't have appeared in public without ringing a bell or shouting a warning of being unclean. He ran the risk of being chased away or stoned, but he was determined to encounter the one man he believed would not reject him.

Jesus must have seen the leper approaching him and he allowed him to come right up to him. Jesus took pity on him and reached out and touched him; it was a symbolic act that no doubt shocked the onlookers and by touching the leper Jesus became ritually unclean himself.

By the very act of touching another person we accept that person exactly as he or she is. Jesus touched many people not just lepers but sinners, those who were sick and the dead. Imagine how the leper must have felt when Jesus touched him.

I imagine he felt he was human after all. His body had been horribly wounded by leprosy but I guess his spirit was even more deeply wounded – by the sense of having been rejected and abandoned by everyone, including God; by touching him Jesus healed his wounded spirit.

The leper said *'Sir, I believe that you can cure me if you really want to.'* Jesus replied **'of course I want to'** and he cured him, physically as well as spiritually, he was wholly and totally cured.

Homily

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Jesus asked the leper to keep quiet about his cure, but the man broadcast everywhere what Jesus had done for him. And it wasn't just the fact that Jesus had cured him that he spoke about, but the astonishing kindness and respect with which Jesus had treated him.

In the Gospel Jesus reaches out a loving and healing hand, he makes the leper feel human again. He invites us, his followers, to identify and reach out to those in need today. There are many in our world, in our own parish and local community who need to experience that healing touch of Jesus in their lives, who feel cut off from society, rejected and alone particularly in this time of lockdown. As we begin Lent this week let us accept the invitation to reach out to them once again in any way that we can over these next few weeks, we will have many opportunities to help and support others less fortunate than ourselves this Lent.

Sending love and prayers, take care and God bless, **Fr Phil x**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

14th February 2021 – 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

In faith and trust we bring all our prayers before God our Father:

For the Church and for Christians everywhere: may they reach out a loving and healing hand to those who are in need in our World at this time.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are finding life difficult during this time of lockdown: may we support and help them through our love and friendship.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all essential workers particularly the doctors and nurses in our hospitals: may they be granted the health and strength that they need as they continue to care for and support their sisters and brothers.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, especially those suffering from coronavirus; may they know the grace and healing of Jesus the Lord of love and life.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry and the poor in our world; may we be generous in sharing what we have with those who are less fortunate.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace in our world and an end to injustice, war, violence and hatred everywhere.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Kev Bowe, Ellen Moore**, those who have died from Covid-19 and all those who have died recently: **“Eternal rest grant unto them...”**

For those who mourn the loss of loved ones; may Christ’s message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **“Hail Mary...”**

God our loving Father,
we offer these and all our prayers
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

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Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things and

I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.

Amen.