

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

14 FEBRUARY 2021

JESUS TOUCHED HIM. Jesus included the healing of lepers among the list of miracles which would authenticate his mission. He also communicated this power to his disciples (Mt 10: 8). In today's Gospel, he not only heals a leper; he lays his hand upon him. It is a gesture of acceptance (and perhaps even of solidarity) with a social outcast.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 30: 3-4

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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; /

you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. 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.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PS 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 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 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

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

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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!'

ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon-Thurs) admin@stmarthas.org.au

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Fridays) office@stmarthas.org.au

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Agnes Lee

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Rachel Suriano

Plenary Council Ambassador: Helena O'Neill

Youth Ministry: Jessica Gereis youth@stmarthas.org.au



'The leprosy left him and he was cured'... Mark 1:40-45

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Website: www.stmarthas.org.au

Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Carolyn Parsell

Assist Principal: Steven Belcastro

REC: Attilia Kazacos

THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

Vision:

**Welcoming
Eucharistic
Transformed by the Word
Full of Grace
Proclaiming Good News**



*Please
continue
to support the
St Vincent De Paul Society
through the Church
Poor Boxes.*

Mission:

**Alive with the Spirit
Inspired by St Martha
We Celebrate & Witness
God's love
Using our Gifts & Talents**

MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 7.30am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Saturday: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm

1st Saturday of every month:

8-9am Adoration, 9am Benediction, 9.10am Healing Mass and
Anointing of the Sick,
followed by reconciliation

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

BAPTISM:

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11.00am
by appointment only.
(One months' notice is required).

Next Preparation Session:

7th March 2020

Contact the Parish office for more information.

MARRIAGES: By appointment only.
(6 months' notice is required).



ROSARY: Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass, Wednesday, Thursday
& Friday 8.30am and 7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian
Movement of Priests Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT

ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:

Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am

Resumes 15th February 2021

*Please support our Catholic Press
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2
& Catholic Leader \$2.50
are available at the Church Entrances.*



SAFE GUARDING

A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board located at the side
entrance contains various resources for children regarding
Safeguarding.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY.

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or
anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can
contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or
safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish
Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your
Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's
Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by
Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to
take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.



Office of the
Children's Guardian

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE
REQUIRED TO **SIGN IN** - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS;
CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL
PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE
SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

ALTAR SERVERS ARE **NOT** PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A
PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR
OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.

'Sharing the Word'

**Mondays at 7pm in St Martha's Church.
Everyone is Welcome.**



GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY CELIAC
PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION
PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE AN ACOLYTE IN
THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.

LENT 2021

THE SEASON OF LENT COMMENCES ON ASH WEDNESDAY - 17th FEBRUARY

ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE.



**7.00am Mass & Distribution of Ashes
9.10am Mass & Distribution of Ashes
7.00pm Mass & Distribution of Ashes**



Lenten Devotion: Stations of the Cross
Every Friday of Lent at 7pm.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION YEAR 3 STUDENTS

It is with much pleasure that I announce we will soon be commencing the Sacramental Programme for First Reconciliation for Year 3 students since these children did not celebrate this Sacrament last year due to the Covid complications. It is important for them to have it now so they will be ready for First Holy Communion later in the year.

The parents or carers of children who are beginning Year 3 this year should refer to the parish website or parish office in order to download the enrolment form, and return it on or before Monday 15th of February. The information night for the parents/carers is on Tuesday 16th of February in the Parish Hall at 6.30pm. (Only one parent is required to attend, without the child).

Due to some clashes of events with the Saturday sessions, we have made an alternate midweek session available for this program.

The midweek sessions will be on Wednesdays after school at 3.20pm in the church. (The parent or carer who will remain with the child for this session must provide a quick refreshment for their child between the finish of school and the start of the session.)

At the parent information night on 16th February, you must nominate whether your child will be attending the Saturday or Wednesday sessions.

We wish to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Linda Praum from St Joseph's Enfield who has kindly volunteered to assist with facilitating the program.

Please note: Year 2 students will receive First Reconciliation in Term 4, 2021.

Information Session (Compulsory for one parent)

Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 6.30pm in St Martha's Parish Hall

LESSONS

Lesson 1 - 3:00pm	Saturday 20 th February	Or	3.20pm	Wednesday 24 th March
Lesson 2 - 3.00pm	Saturday 27 th February	Or	3.20pm	Wednesday 3 rd March
Lesson 3 - 3.00pm	Saturday 6 th March	Or	3.20pm	Wednesday 10 th March
Lesson 4 - 3.00pm	Saturday 13 th March	Or	3.20pm	Wednesday 17 th March

All lessons will take place in the Parish Hall

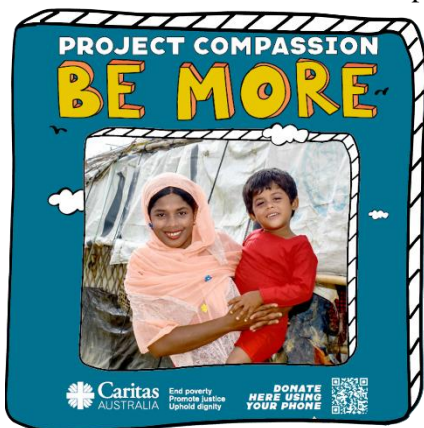
Retreat & Practice - 3.00pm - Saturday 20th March

First Reconciliation Liturgy - Tuesday 23rd March at 6.30pm



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun. In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behaviour of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community. In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses. Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honour. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honours the Law of Moses. Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

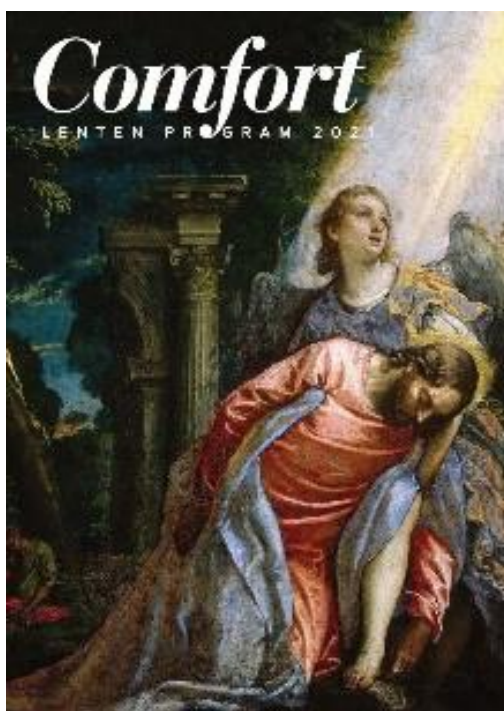


"Aspire not to have more, but to be more"

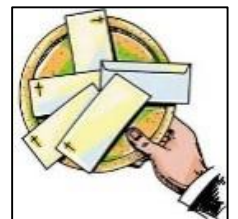
Saint Oscar Romero

Boxes and envelopes are available to take home from the Church Foyer.

When those fighting the odds are graced with the kindness of people like you, extraordinary things can happen. Your ongoing generosity to assist those in need is greatly appreciated.



**COULD THE PARISHIONER
CURRENTLY USING PLANNED
GIVING ENVELOPE NUMBER 170
KINDLY CONTACT THE PARISH
OFFICE ASAP.**



Monday Morning Prayer Group will commence on 15th February at 10.30am in the Church. The first session will be the start of the Wollongong Lenten Program "Comfort". Everyone is warmly welcome to attend. We express much gratitude to Cathy Milgate for facilitating the program. A limited number of copies are available to purchase from the parish office \$10 each.

The new roster to commence 6th March is now available from the side entrance of the Church or via the parish website.

20 th & 21 st February				
Special Ministers	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Christine Ng	Therese Issa	Ravi Family
	Tandiono Family	Geraldine O'Sullivan	Maria Soares	Ravi Family
Readers	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Czarina Mendoza-Cruz	Beatrice Cooney	Merlyn D'Souza	Jenny O'Hehir
	Marianna Soo	John Edwards	Michael Quinlan	Miriam Redolfi
Altar Servers	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Nicholas E.	George C.	Catelyn C.	Lawrence X.
	Kathryn E.	Elias C.	Elijah M.	Jayden Y.
	Lachlan P.	Dominic N.	Emilia T.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	Elizabeth P.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Phil Robinson	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk

If you are unable to attend your rostered Mass kindly organise a replacement.

MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Recently Deceased:</u>	Peter Mynett, Janette (Jenny) O'Hara, Maureen Duggan, Dr Francis Anthony Rajah, Captain Sir Tom Moore, George Karam, Dorothy Spratt, Alessio Pappalettera, Father Isidore Anantharaj, Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, Chi Kong, Caterina Randazzo, Betty Rooney, Ann-Maree Leydon.
<u>Repose of The Soul:</u>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Gerald Wilson, John Ferguson, Daniel Lucich, James Brady, Ken Fraser, Connie Wong, Mary Bentley, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore (Phillip) Puglisi, William (Bill) & Dorothy Starr, Roger O'Reilly, Stefano, Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, John, Doreen & Des McNamara Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Stephen Maxwell Stewart & Christopher John Stewart, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Maria Huang, Dominic Wang, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Guiseppe & Romilda Reginato.
<u>Anniversaries:</u>	Grace Hunt, Jim Henness, Anne Pittorino, Peter Hetherston, Dan Dillon, Leni Fragassi, Sr M Fabian rsm, Joseph & Margaret McGannon, Richard Sullivan, Maureen Sarks, Rosario Pagano, Violet Bouffler.
<u>Sick Intentions:</u>	Nevenko Govorchin, Nicola Bailey, Moira Harrington, Aida Bechara, Susanna Boroczky, Pat Fraser, Tony Grace, Baby Alice Ladd, Margaret Davidson, Marc Kayrouz, Peter Starr & Ajith Antony Seemampillai..
<u>Special Intentions:</u>	Members of the Tannous & Duggan Families, Jessica Harter, Peter Hetherston, Reg Jones, Eileen & Harold Crocker, Siva Sothy, The Pagano & Colagiuri Families, May & Frank Grieves, Eileen Givney, Anne Goodrick. For Deceased Friends & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.



Enrolling @ St Martha's Primary School

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2022 are now being taken. Years 1-6 anytime of the year. Please contact the School Office on 9764 1184 for an Enrolment Pack or a personalised tour. All enrolments are welcome.

Is your family impacted by domestic violence?

Connect with counsellors and group programs to help families affected by domestic violence.

Call CCareline to find out more

CCareline 131819

CatholicCare.org

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

🕒 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. 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.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: When we eat this Bread, and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Ps 77: 29-30

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

or

Jn 3: 16

God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

COMPASSION FINDS A WAY

One of the painful learnings we have had from COVID 19 is just how difficult it is to deal with contagious diseases. In Ancient Israel they had learned that quarantining people suffering from skin diseases was necessary until they could be declared by priests ready to safely return to the community. For lepers and those who loved them, it was a brutally painful experience of fear, isolation, and rejection.

In the Gospel today a leper has heard about Jesus and in his desperation risks his life, and the health of others, by entering the city. Falling to his knees he pleads with Jesus to be healed. In his boundless compassion for the man, Jesus reaches out and touches him. In doing this Jesus takes the extraordinary step of making himself an outsider. Healed by Jesus, the man can now be declared fit to return safely to the community. His life has been returned to him and while Jesus has commanded him to be silent, he simply cannot hold it in – the good news of Jesus cannot be contained. At the end of the episode, an outsider has been brought back home and now Jesus has become an outsider himself, and that's where everyone can find him.

Not seeking our own good, but the good of others by not causing them scandal or harm was a lesson Paul was trying to teach the community of Christians in Corinth. Jesus' compassion leads him to reach out to all those in need. Paul hopes that his Christians will live their lives in the same way.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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