



### Gospel Mk 1:40-45

*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.

### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

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'.

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# The Living Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

11 February 2024

### First Reading Lv 13:1-2. 44-46

*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.'

### 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.)

- By 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

*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 Jew 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.

### Gospel Acclamation Lk 7:16

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*A great prophet has appeared among us;*

*God has visited his people.*

*Alleluia!*

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# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

191 Cox's Road, North Ryde NSW 2113

Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel  
(Michaelite Fathers)



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(11 February 2024) Web: [www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au](http://www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au)

Michaelite Community: Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

**SUNDAY MASS:** Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.  
Spanish Speaking Mass 12:30pm;  
Filipino Mass monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 12:15pm

**WEEKDAY MASS:** Mondays - Church open for private prayer  
Tuesday 7pm, Wednesday - Saturday 8:30am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday to Friday - 9:00am to 3:00pm

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE:** 9809 2757

Next week 1<sup>st</sup> Lent: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 2:4-9; Mark 1:12-25.

## Fr Stan writes ...

Today's Gospel from Mark invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals and as a family. Jesus was faced with a choice in today's Gospel. By choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice, and that Jesus could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus would not help him. The social taboos regarding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need. The sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion.

This coming week we celebrate **Ash Wednesday**, and so the start of the penitential season of Lent. The season of Lent presents us with an opportunity to examine our lives and to re-commit ourselves to the Christian practices of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Each of us is invited to do these things as individuals, but we can also do one or more actions as a family. Ash Wednesday is a good time for families to pray together and to plan the family's Lenten practices. I invite you to join us for Mass on Ash Wednesday where the Ashes will be distributed.

**Our Mass Times are: 7am, 9:30am and 7pm**

**Lent** begins this week on Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Let us use this blessed time to reflect on the state of our spiritual life and prepare well for Easter.

**Ash Wednesday is a day of abstinence and fasting with an opportunity to attend Mass.** We invite you to join in our prayer. It is a tradition that on Fridays in Lent we reflect on Jesus' Passion by following the Stations of the Cross, we gather in our church at 7pm for this devotion. And, of course, during this time we also remember the less fortunate than ourselves by supporting Project Compassion. Good Friday is also a day of abstinence and fasting.

**LENT BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Ash Wednesday (Fast and abstinence) Mass Times: 7am, 9:30am & 7pm**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** during weekdays in Lent will take place after daily Mass for half an hour beginning **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February.**

**Stations of the Cross** during Lent, each Friday at 7pm in the church



## Project Compassion Sunday 10 & 11 February



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations.**

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction.

Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



**A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:** Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office 9390 5810/ [safeguarding@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding@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

### POSITION VACANT – Cook

The Vincentian Community at Vincentia St Marsfield are looking for a cook to work Monday-Thursday 4-7pm. Cooking and kitchen duties only, no shopping or cleaning involved. For more information please ring John on 0418 963 562.

### CLEARING SALE – 1 Vincentia St Marsfield

To be held Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 8am to 1pm. Many items available at truly bargain prices eg beds, cupboards, chairs, tables, appliances. Prices negotiable.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING:** Jenny Scully Callaghan, Andrew Chan, Dean Davids, Joseph Papandrea, Vic & Avonia Moran, Joan Johnston, Michael Maglunog, Baby Addison Jean Oldman, Greg Forrester, Vianney Brown.

**PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF:** Angelina Gualdi, Tina Colagiuri, Dr Raphael Ibanez, Fr Kevin Bates SM, Yeung Cheung recently deceased.

Also, Giuseppe Petrollo, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Angelo & Carmela & Angelo Scicluna, Albert Khoshaba, George Maiolo, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale & Teresa Papandrea, Tony Bietola, Giovanni & Santina Bietola, John & Robyne Bietola, Sam Tedesco, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, the Escalante & Venal families, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Carmela, Angelo, Paul Scicluna, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Mary & Sam Bietola, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Gianni Gualdi, Antonino, Tindara & Vincenzo Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Fr Kevin O'Grady, Stefano & Giuseppina Zappia, Lina Caccamo, Helena Lee, Gwendoline Goh, Angela Bong, Marie & Jim Hyde, Denis Wonderley.