

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



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

11 FEBRUARY 2024

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

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 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: 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.

- 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.**
- 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.**
- 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!



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Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 7 am Thurs: 9 am
Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm

Sunday 10 am
RECONCILIATION:

Sat. 5pm - 5.15pm

Also available by appointment
Principal: Rose André

Sacred Heart School Matraville: 9311 2995



Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadigal People as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Go Make Disciples, The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Please pray for the:

Recently Deceased: Piera Scfaro, Doris Bonanno, Mauro Soriano, Rose Galea, Alvaro Manuel Da Cruz, Isabel Luz, Renato Lobo, Manuel Moniz De Jesus, Charlie Callaja, John Daley, Antonia Torchia, Kerry Delaney, Fr Michael Kelly, Fr Kevin Bates SM, John Thomas, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



Anniversary: Ellen Cussen, Carmel Donovan, Alex Lawes, Patrick Sargent, Jacintha Mary, Jeanne Mirabatur, Joseph Mirabatur, Michael Garry, Maureen Tritchler, Patricia Nicol, Marko Bukusic, Ivan Zic, Lydia & Joseph Buyjeya, Josephine Micallef, and Carolyn McMahon.

Deceased: Joyce Gander, Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

The Sick: Mauro Soriano, Margaret Gately, Maureen Maron, Sandra Russell, Bishop Peter Ingham, Ange Portelli, Ha Oi Lan, Mario Assini, Sam Strano, Josephine Regan, Mary Vella, Beatriz Visperas, Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, Angela Beveridge, Merley Nate Fien, John Sarniak Thomson, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, and Santa Viselli. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and pray for World Peace, and those suffering from Covid.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?
Saturday - 17 February 2024 - 5.00pm St Andrew's (Livestreamed)
Sunday - 18 February 2024 - 10.00am St Agnes'



Greetings dear parishioners and visitors of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew & St Agnes Malabar-Matraville.

This Wednesday, 14 February 2024 is Ash Wednesday. Wow, it is so early with Easter Sunday being 31 March 2024. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast

and abstaining from meat, this includes chicken. Some of you will remember no meat on all Fridays of the year. It was back in the late 70's that things changed so we didn't have to abstain from meat on every Friday. The Bishops of Australia and New Zealand said that every Friday of the year was to be a day of penance, I think people have forgotten this little fact. So, there still remains Ash Wednesday and Good Friday to abstain from meat for everyone who have completed their fourteenth birthday and older. There is fasting also on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for those have completed their eighteenth year and not begun their sixtieth year. Fasting means have one full meal with only two very small other meals. There are Lenten Penance sheets on the notice boards of our Churches to read the Archbishop's exaltation of Lent and Easter.

It is hoped that there will be Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent at both St Andrew's and St Agnes', followed by a period of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

We have begun our Sacrament of Penance Program. This Sunday and the following Sunday, we will have Commitment Sunday where students, parents and parish commit to the program. Please keep these students in your prayers.

The restoration of the foyer and steps of St Agnes' War Memorial Church, Matraville is moving along very well and hope it to be completed very shortly.

At St Andrew's there are to be two portable classrooms on our parking space arriving shortly and remaining for the rest of the year as the renovation of the old 1931 Convent into a 21st Century administration and break out rooms that are so very much needed. It is good to note that the St Andrew's School Library is getting a makeover and new carpet through the classrooms of St Andrew's school.

At St Agnes' Church this weekend the Catechist Sunday Recruitment will be taking place as was at St Andrew's last weekend.

Next Sunday 18 February you are invited to the Pere Receveur Mass at La Perouse at 11am. This was thought to be the first Catholic burial in Australia.

Thanks to all who have brought back their old Palms from Palm Sunday last year.

God Bless

Fr John

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

St Agnes Matraville: 7.00am & 11.20am

St Andrew's Malabar: 9.00am & 7.00pm

We wish a Happy Chinese New Year to our parishioners of Chinese ancestry.—Year of the Dragon



PERE RECEVEUR MASS AT LA PEROUSE—SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY at 11am

This Mass is celebrated annually near the grave of Fr Receveur who died at Botany Bay on 17th February 1788. He was a priest and scientist with the La Perouse expedition.

He may have been the first Catholic priest in Australia.

Everyone is invited to this outdoor Mass

Marquee, transport and sound system provided courtesy of Randwick City Council, and Sausage sizzle by Seaside Lions & refreshments by Friends of La Perouse Museum.

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 and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguarding.enquiries@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.