

FIRST READING

Leviticus 13:1-2.45-46

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.

"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

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.
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.
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

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.

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:40-45

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.

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St Anthony of Padua

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Rev. Tom Butler (retired - 07853777957)

Sunday Masses: 6.00 (Vigil - Saturday Evening) 9.30am, 5.00pm (Sunday Morning)

Weekday Mass: Mon-Wed, Fri: 9.15am. (Thurs 9.15am at Holy Family)

Confessions: on request

Annexe: 725544

Social Centre: 735963

Primary school: 726621

Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

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Embracing the Leper

'Both Jesus and the leper defy the rules - the leper was not to approach; Jesus was not to touch or even speak to the leper who was condemned to a life of isolation and treated as a non-person. When the leper spoke to Jesus it was from a faith that asked for recognition. Jesus knew he would be excluded the moment he touched the leper because it was forbidden by law and so he was sending a clear message that the law needed breaking. It is significant that Jesus heals the leper by touching him.' [1] "Touch, and the world of touch, bring us out of the anonymity of distance into the intimacy of belonging...touch brings presence home." [2] 'Leprosy is a symbol of the aspects of our lives that we fear, all that we deny, all that we wish to exclude from our lives. In touching the leper Jesus is symbolically telling us that God wishes to reach us in our weakness and restore us to fullness of life. What are the issues in our lives that are "untouchable", that need to be embraced, released and healed?' [1] 'In defiance of popular thinking, both therapy and spirituality encourage us to embrace our shadow self, to reclaim what we have denied, feared and rejected, to befriend our mistakes and failures. In doing so we leave space for Mystery, for the healing alchemy of God - who is within us.' [3]

Adapted: [1] Ennis Blue [2] John O'Donohue [3] Richard Rohr

May you desire to be healed. May what is wounded in your life be restored to good health.
May you be receptive to the ways in which healing needs to happen.
May you take good care of yourself.
May you extend compassion to all that hurts within your body, mind, and spirit.
May you be patient with the time it takes to heal.
May you be aware of the wonders of your body, mind, and spirit and their ability in returning you to good health.
May you be open to receive from those who extend kindness, care, and compassion to you.
May you rest peacefully under the sheltering wings of divine love, trusting in this gracious presence. May you find little moments of beauty and joy to sustain you.
May you keep hope in your heart.

(Joyce Rupp)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

14th February 2021

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 13th February 2021

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Sat 6.00pm | <i>St. Ant</i> | Catherine Holmes | |
| Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm | <i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i> | Private intention Annie Colbert Seretse Graphine | <i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Day of Prayer for unemployed</i> |
| Mon 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | For our parish | |
| Tue 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | Gerard Mason | |
| Wed 9.15am 10.30am | <i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> | Winnie Gildea Jan Royan Michael Harston | <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i> |
| Thur 9.15am | <i>H.Family</i> | Winifred Cooper | |
| Fri 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | John Rigby | |
| Sat 6.00pm | <i>St. Ant</i> | Private intention | |
| Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm | <i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i> | Brian Newsham Lancs Infirm Clergy For our parish | <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> |

Masses received this past week: Gerard Mason, Brian Newsham, John Rigby.

BIDDING PRAYER INTENTIONS

On the Day of Prayer for the Unemployed, we pray for all those struggling to find and keep a job, that they do not lose heart but come to feel appreciated and valued, even when they have no work to give them a sense of worth.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent. We pray that we may take the opportunities it offers for growing in the spirit of faith in God and of love for others.

We pray for families during lockdown trying to maintain their life balance whilst supporting their children's home-school learning. May they be blessed with patience and resilience.

We pray for all NHS workers. With many suffering exhaustion and fatigue, having worked tirelessly for months, we ask the Holy Spirit to bless and protect them during the on-going pandemic.

We remember in our prayers those of the parish who are suffering ill-health just now, and those who care for them, particularly: Harold Slack, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Malaya, Lawrence Dunnagan, Ray Mannion, Bill York, Vera, Trevor Hughes, Claire, Joyce Hilton, Rev John Kilshaw;

those who have died recently: Margaret McKeown, Margaret Nugent, Agnes Long, Thomas Newsham;

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Pauline Howard, Jim Whiteside, John Turner, Winifred Cooper, Joe Cassidy and John Calvey. May they rest in peace.

LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY

- This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, a day for receiving ashes. Churches were closed on Palm Sunday last year so there are no palms to return. However if you have an old palms from previous years you can return them for us to use for the Ashes this Wednesday.

- there will be an extra evening Mass at St. Anthony's as well as the morning Masses.

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the two days of fasting and abstinence.

Stations of the Cross.

We are not able to have the Stations in church as usual but some members of the parish will present them on zoom every Friday. 'Doors open' at 5.45. Session starts 6.00pm prompt. Meeting ID: 860 7625 5774 Passcode: 068559

Livestreaming Mass

As well as normal Mass in church we are now able to livestream the 9.30am Mass from St. Anthony's church. Go to the St. Anthony of Padua YouTube page and look for the link there. Although you cannot obviously receive holy communion while watching this streaming you could make your own spiritual communion at this time, as follows:

My Jesus, I believe You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since at this moment I cannot receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

Castlerigg Youth Service

The Youth Service at Castlerigg Manor are launching two online groups for young people to come together, have a laugh, make some friends, and deepen their faith.

Overflow, an online group for 18-30s, is on Mondays. See www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/overflow to sign up.

Rise, for young people in years 7 to 9 begins in March, but sign up now to keep up to date www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/riseonline

First Holy Communions

We're looking at using Zoom or Microsoft Teams to set up preparation for the sacraments of reconciliation and first holy communion. Its not ideal and no preparation can ever be as good as being at Mass each week gathering with the parish community around the altar of the Lord. But it's a shame to keep the children waiting to take this great step forward in their faith. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Virtual Coffee Morning

Join your fellow parishioners at the Zoom Coffee Morning at 11.00 am this Sunday
Meeting ID: 898 4267 4110 Passcode: 229935

Walk for Water

CAFOD has written to remind us that in 2021 the UK is set to host two major international meetings –the G7 and the UN Climate Talks (COP26). Climate change means that access to clean water is becoming more unpredictable. We know that one in three people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water. This Lent can you take on our 'Walk for Water' challenge? Sign up, get sponsored and get walking -10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/walk