

TO THE Heights

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and Supporting the Catholic faith in our post-primary schools and amongst our young people.



ascendwaterfordlismore.ym



AscendWaterfordLismoreYM



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Niels Larsen Stevns, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 31(32): 1-2, 5,11

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel:

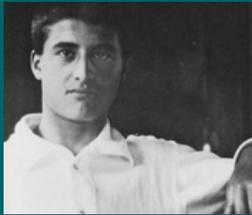
Mark 1:40-45

"The leprosy left him at once and he was cured"

Getting to know Pier Giorgio

His Diligence

His diligence. Pier Giorgio was not afraid of hard work. Although his family was disgustingly wealthy, he didn't shy away from yard work or other tedious tasks.



Another awesome thing about him? School did not come naturally for him. He struggled to maintain good markings in his course work. He wanted to be a miner so that he could work with his hands, but had to first obtain a proper degree. He often suffered through his studies, but he never gave up and he never made excuses.

<https://catholicexchange.com/11-reasons-love-bl-pier-giorgio-frassati>

Watch this Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother Video on Pier Giorgio's constancy and discover a really practical way to apply it in your life...
... stay away from your snooze button!



Hear



Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find the text here.



Or watch a short video version from "The Chosen" series by clicking here.

Reflect

- What do you think the leper felt when he saw Jesus?
- What did others feel when they saw the leper?
- Why was the leper so sure Jesus could heal him?
- Why was Jesus not afraid of touching the leper?
- Are there people you are afraid to reach out to, because you worry about what others might think?
- What would stop you from reaching out to Jesus for help and healing in your life?
- Could you ask Jesus for the courage to reach out to Him, and trust in His love?



Carlo's Corner

IF YOU WANT TO, YOU CAN HEAL ME



*Blessed Carlo Acutis
- Pray for us!*

"Your Father in heaven is not afraid of your mess. We do not have a God who loves us "in spite" of our messes, we have a God Who loves us in the midst of them." Mark Hart

Leprosy, especially in the time of Jesus, was a terrible disease. Not only did the physical body decay and waste away, but lepers suffered terribly emotionally, as they were cast out from society, never again to have contact with their families or loved ones, a permanent isolation unless they could be cured. None of us suffer from leprosy, but we definitely all can suffer from wounds in our hearts. Words that have cut us deeply, others letting us down, our own failures and weaknesses. Jesus doesn't turn away from our wounds: He wants us to know that He loves us, and wants to heal any hurts. He's not afraid of the messiness of our lives. He's the One who can bring real peace, forgiveness and comfort. We just need to ask Him.

TEACHER'S CORNER



Quo Vadis

Lenten Series for young adults aged 13 - 35 who are seeking purpose and meaning in their lives. Every Sunday from 7 - 8pm, 14th Feb - 28th March.

Testimonies from guest speakers, time for prayer, chat, discussion and getting to know other young Catholic adults. If you can't make every night, no problem. Just join when you can! For more info: youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie or click here to register:

<https://forms.gle/kpPs8niwFXChT6jM8>

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:



Is there any area of life you're struggling with? Bring it to Jesus. To help you, check out: [Sr Miriam James' video: "Overcoming Fear"](#) and [LifeTeen: Can God Heal Me? Blog!](#)



Young Person's Prayer

Dear Jesus,

When you met the leper you acted with such compassion and love. Teach me to be that compassionate and loving to everyone I meet. Help me also to have the courage of the leper to ask for healing in my life, and to let you into the messiness of my life. Amen

TUNE OF THE WEEK



Listen to "Broken Vessels" (Hillsong)



Gospel Reflection: Jesus Sets Us a Challenge

"Unclean". That word stands out in both the First Reading and Gospel today, the 14th of February. This is the day many call Valentine's Day, a day when people profess love for one another. Maybe it is appropriate as the gospel is about a proclamation of love.

It would be easy to criticise or ignore the reading from Leviticus but to be fair, it is stating the law of that time in regard to the skin illness called leprosy, "Unclean" and isolated and marginalised. The leper banished by the community from the community, standing out as different, not wanted, not loved.

Then we come to the gospel, telling us of a leper in despair, unclean, not wanted nor loved. Jesus knew the Law from beginning to end and remember what he said, "I have come not to abolish the law but to complete it" or he could have "walked by on the other side". He didn't walk by or ignore the man. He welcomed him, he reached out and touched him, a simple yet profound gesture of intimacy. He reached out to the man and accepted him as a child of God. He saw beyond the sores in to the pain in the man's heart. There was healing and love.

The Gospel and Jesus always sets us a challenge. How do you and I regard the "lepers" of our time, those we deem not welcome, wanted, nor loved, those we prefer to be unseen or cast to the margins. Just like Jesus, we must see beyond the externals into the heart where the real person is with their store of goodness. We must accept them and love them. Anything less and we fall short of the gospel values of Jesus.

By Fr Gerry Chestnutt



CHECK IT OUT: ONLINE WITH SAINTS



Imagine you could meet and greet a saint, which saint would you choose? Online with Saints (#OnlineSaints) offers a virtual encounter with 100+ saints from all around the world. Get ready to meet and greet the saints through their social media account! The app "Online with Saints" offers a virtual encounter with saints from all around the world : their inspiring life stories are linked to real life modern questions, and together with them answers are found.