

FAITH @Home

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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!



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Year B 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 32:1-2,5,11

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1

Gospel:

Mark 1:40-45

He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"



By Niels Larsen Stevns - Own work (Own photo)(Skovgaard Museum, Viborg, Denmark), Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1430117>

Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [here](#).

Check out [this video](#) on the readings for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we reflect further on Jesus' healing ministry, as He heals a leper.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Can you imagine the desperation of the leper to approach Jesus with his request to be healed? Law dictated he needed to stay far away from society, from family and friends. How incredibly lonely and isolating. Is there anything in your life that makes you feel lonely and isolated at the moment? Is there anything you feel is keeping you from being yourself around others? Is there anything you need to cry out to Jesus for help with because there's no other way? Jesus is there in our good times as well as our tough times - let's never be afraid to draw close to Him!

Talk

In today's readings we hear about Jesus healing a leper who came to him for help.

- Do you know much about leprosy and what life was like for lepers at the time of Jesus? They had to leave their homes, their communities, their families. They were shut out by everyone, everyone was afraid of them because they might catch leprosy from them. Jesus wasn't afraid. Jesus was filled with compassion when he saw the poor man and reached out and touched him.
- Is there anyone we know that we're afraid to reach out and help? Maybe we think it might harm our popularity at school or at work? Ask Jesus for His compassionate love!

Family Challenge!

Write down one or two things you would like Jesus to heal in your life or in someone else's life. Call to mind Jesus' response to the leper when praying for them this week.

DEPTH OF COMPASSION

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 honor. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honors 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.

Loyola Press - Sunday Connection

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.



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- Faith@Home / Let's Dive In Newsletters (faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie) WEEKLY
- To the Heights Youth Newsletter (youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie) WEEKLY
- Check it Out! Diocesan Events Bulletin (events@waterfordlismore.ie) FORTNIGHTLY



**IF YOU WANT TO,
YOU CAN HEAL ME**

"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.



The Chosen: Jesus Heals the Leper



Broken Vessels: Hillsong

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



Family Prayer

Lord Jesus, You showed such love and compassion for the leper in today's Gospel. We bring you any hurts and wounds we have in our family, any areas that need Your healing touch. If you want to, you can heal us. We trust in Your love and mercy. Amen

EVENTS

40 Hours of Adoration for Vocations: at locations around the Diocese in February and March. Check www.waterfordlismore.ie for more details

One day Marriage Retreat: Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary. One-Day Healing & Renewal Retreat for Married Couples of all Ages. Sun 25th February, 10am - 5pm. Dealing with your past, taking stock of your present, building your future. Only €80 per couple. Includes 3 Course Dinner & tea/coffee. Pre-booking essential. Tel (052) 6133181 or email info@holymission.ie

Family Day: Sunday 10th March in Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary. 10am - 3pm. Bring a packed lunch. Donation only. Pre-booking is essential - email info@holymission.ie