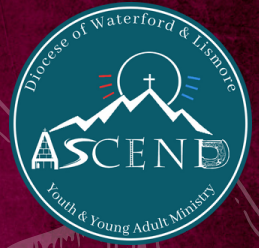




# To the Heights



**Year B 6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Download from [www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources) or subscribe to receive by email!

## SAINT VALENTINE IS IN DUBLIN?

Did you know that the relics of St Valentine can be found in Dublin? Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church to be exact! They have been there since the 1800s! The Shrine is visited throughout the year by couples who come to pray to Valentine and to ask him to watch over them in their lives together.



## HEAR: Sunday Gospel Mark 1:40-45



If you don't have a Bible handy, click the image here to access the Mass readings for this Sunday!

**The Chosen:**  
Jesus Heals the Leper

## WATCH:



## PRAY:



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

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Is there an area of your life you need healing in? Is there something you're struggling with? Why not allow this Lenten season to be a time of healing, growth and renewal for you? Include a little time of silence and prayer in each day and see how the Lord can work in your life too!

## TUNE!

Broken Vessels  
Hillsong



## GROW:

### RESOURCES: 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.



## EVENTS

**CONNECT 4** for young people aged between 18 and 35 years in the Devere Hall in UCC on Sunday February 18th, 2024. The day will include Mass, lunch, adoration, an opportunity for confession, and the guest speaker will be Msgr James Shea. €10 which includes food etc. 10am - 4pm. Register through [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

## GAMECHANGERS:

14th February

## ST VALENTINE: WHO WAS HE REALLY???

Click the image to discover more about this feast

The Catholic Church offers us so many examples of inspirational saints and heroes, or as we like to call them here, **Game Changers!**

More Gamechanger resources available on our website.



[www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry)



[AscendWaterfordLismoreYM](https://www.facebook.com/AscendWaterfordLismoreYM)



[ascendwaterfordlismore.ym](https://www.instagram.com/ascendwaterfordlismore.ym)



[Ascend Youth Ministry](https://www.youtube.com/AscendYouthMinistry)



## PUZZLE

FIND THE WORDS FROM THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL IN THE WORDSEARCH BELOW



evidence  
freely  
hand  
heal  
Jesus  
Law of Moses  
leper  
ordered  
priest  
show  
sternly  
story  
stretched  
touched

P	M	I	B	W	T	C	Y	Y	J	D	W	O	O	J	L	K	Z
R	J	O	Q	S	R	O	C	L	W	E	R	O	M	H	A	F	T
E	H	E	E	E	F	C	D	E	T	R	S	E	R	E	W	X	C
J	D	I	J	V	C	B	N	E	F	E	S	U	Q	E	Z	J	H
C	R	S	H	O	W	N	K	R	Q	D	T	T	S	Y	P	U	Q
P	O	Y	D	M	S	K	E	F	L	R	W	S	E	G	T	E	Q
N	H	B	L	R	P	B	F	D	N	O	T	C	D	R	M	U	L
H	E	A	L	V	V	F	M	G	I	R	W	F	F	V	N	L	F
O	R	I	F	U	T	M	O	T	E	V	S	E	S	O	M	L	I
D	E	H	C	U	O	T	E	T	F	O	E	N	T	X	T	T	Y
F	T	L	K	N	C	L	C	Q	E	K	Z	R	O	R	M	X	N
S	F	T	T	S	M	H	A	I	D	B	L	T	R	Q	O	J	I
C	M	T	G	X	E	P	R	T	K	J	G	D	Y	F	T	S	F
X	N	L	D	D	Q	H	I	S	M	C	U	E	B	V	S	N	Q
A	H	N	E	D	C	C	J	Z	P	S	O	F	Z	M	K	I	P
Z	A	J	C	Y	W	P	R	Q	L	N	L	D	T	F	W	H	U
H	Z	M	T	Y	I	P	O	W	D	K	Z	E	U	Z	T	N	B
R	V	V	O	Z	C	F	C	S	Q	F	I	P	T	N	E	M	M

Can you explain how any four of these words relate to the message of the Gospel?

What do you think God could be saying to you in this Gospel? What speaks to your heart? Maybe it raises questions, maybe it's a little uncomfortable, maybe it offers hope... what matters is that we are open to hearing God speak to us individually.



## RESPOND!

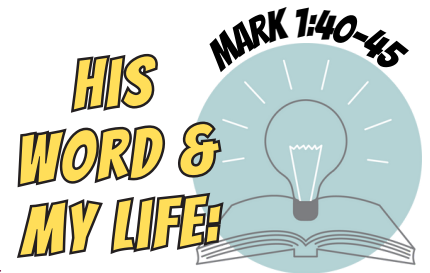


Reflect on scripture quote and allow thoughts and images that come to you to form part of your doodle prayer: it could be people or situations that need prayer or even areas you might need to change in. Certain words or phrases might stand out for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart as you pray and doodle!

**"OF COURSE I WANT TO... BE HEALED"**



[Click here for some relaxing instrumental music](#)  
SPONTANEOUS WORSHIP | TWO HOURS OF WORSHIP PIANO



**"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.



WATCH NOW

# Our Wounded Hearts

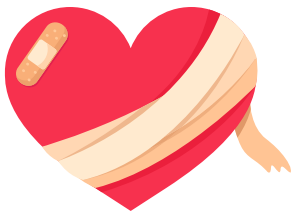
Mark 1:40-45

## Our wounded world...

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, enduring a permanent isolation unless they could be cured.



Niels Larsen Stevns, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



None of us suffer from leprosy, but we definitely all can suffer from wounds in our hearts: words that have cut us deeply; friends or family letting us down; our own failures and weaknesses; troubles we carry that no-one else could even guess. 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.

***"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***

## What about my heart?



Listen to the song, *"Just One Touch"* by Kim Walker Smith.

Pick a line or a phrase that stands out to you and write it here:

What is it about this phrase that makes you stop and think?

How can you apply it to your life? Could it become a prayer for you this week?



*Take some time in silent prayer. Open your heart as much as you can to God, asking for His healing in any areas of your life where you really need Him.*

## What about others?



Who can you reach out to this week? Who needs compassion and love? How can you help those in need? Think of one concrete action.

**Dear Jesus, When you met the man with leprosy 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 that man, to ask for healing in my life, and to let You into the messiness of my life. Amen**





# Damien of Molokai

Mark 1:40-45



What do you think of when you hear the name "Hawaii"?

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## Who was St Damien of Molokai?

- Watch this short video clip here on the *Blessed Among Us* YouTube Channel.
- Read the short account of his life here on [www.teachingcatholickids.com](http://www.teachingcatholickids.com) ("A saint for the Forgotten and Abandoned")



What is your initial response to the decision of Fr Damien to go on mission to the island of Molokai? If you had been his friend or family member, what would you have advised him?

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Why do you think it would have been difficult for Fr Damien to stay there and minister to those who were dying from leprosy?

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If you could have asked Fr Damien any questions about his mission in Molokai, what would you most like to know?

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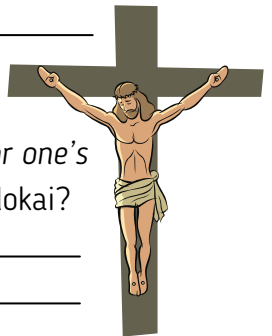
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In John 15:13 Jesus says: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." How well do you think this statement applies to the life of St Damien of Molokai?

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## Can people still contract leprosy today?

Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) is an infection caused by a slow-growing bacteria (*Mycobacterium Leprae*) which can affect the nerves, skin, eyes and lining of the nose. In the past leprosy was incurable and so was terribly feared, as the only prospect facing someone diagnosed with leprosy was a slow and painful death, cut off from loved ones and society at large. Nowadays, with early diagnosis and treatment, leprosy can actually be cured. However, if left untreated, the nerve damage can result in crippling of hands and feet, paralysis, and blindness.

(source: <https://www.cdc.gov/leprosy/index.html>)

Leprosy still exists in some parts of Asia, Africa and South America, due to extreme poverty, poor sanitation, malnourishment and stigmatisation which can lead to those suffering from leprosy being afraid to come forward for diagnosis and treatment.





# Indescribable Compassion

Mark 1:40-45

"Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean"  
Luke 5:12

## Section A: Before watching the episode, reflect on the following:

Can you remember a time you were sick, and had to miss school, or a match, or had to isolate from family and friends? How did it feel?

Can you remember a time when friends made a special effort to help you, or when you made a real effort to help a friend?



## Section B: Watch the episode and answer the questions that follow:



1. How does the opening scene convey the desperation / fear associated with leprosy?

2. What view of John the Baptist does Nicodemus share with the other Pharisees?

3. Name three day-to-day problems do the apostles face (as mentioned by James and Peter)?



4. Why does Jesus insist Simon goes ahead of the others to Capernaum?  
Why Simon, and not any of the others?

5. How does Quintus explain the miraculous catch of fish on Simon's boat?

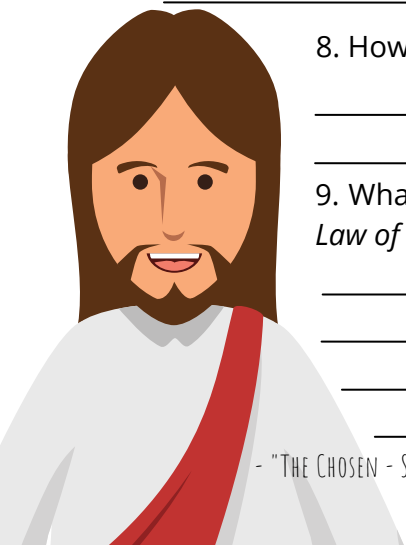
6. Why did Jesus have to spend His childhood in Egypt?



7. Describe the reactions of the apostles and Mary Magdalene when the man with leprosy appears.

8. How would you describe the reaction of Jesus to the man with leprosy?

9. What instructions did Jesus give to the man he healed from leprosy (to fulfil the Law of Moses in such a case)?

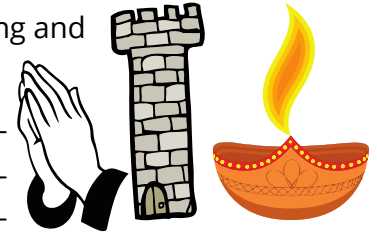




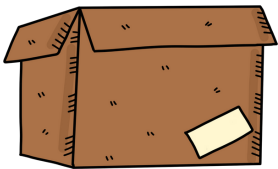
10. What advice did Salome give her sons, James and John, regarding Jesus?

11. How does Simon treat Matthew when he meets him in this episode?

12. What Gospel stories / parables / teachings can you identify in the teaching and sharing of Jesus in Zebedee's house?



13. Nicodemus states that he does not want to live in some "bleak past where God cannot do anything new". What danger does he recognise in Schmucl's confined understanding of the law?



14. How is Matthew treated by his fellow Jews as he approaches Zebedee's house?

15. Who are the only ones to treat Matthew with any kindness or concern?

17. Schmucl's reaction to Jesus is sharply contrasted with that of Tamar: explain.

18. How does Jesus show he can read what's on Schmucl's heart?

19. How does Jesus show that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins (something only God can do)?



## Section C: Personal reflection

1. What is your impression of Jesus in this episode? Does anything surprise you?

2. Which character do you most identify with in this episode? Explain your answer. Choose from *Matthew*, *Tamar*, *the paralysed man*, or *the man with leprosy*.

3. Nicodemus tells Schmucl that our understanding of God will never be complete. Do you agree or disagree? How could this understanding impact a believer's faith?



# In His Shoes

Mark 1:40-45



- In The Chosen Season 1 Episode 6, Jesus works two dramatic healing miracles.
- Imagine you are the man who was cleansed from leprosy *or* the paralysed man who was forgiven and healed.
- **Write a diary entry of the day you encountered Jesus and were miraculously healed.**

• **Describe:**

- your emotions / experiences prior to the healing, including how others treated you;
- what it was like when you first glimpsed Jesus;
- what you hoped for by meeting Him;
- how the miracle actually took place (and what was said);
- the instructions you received from Jesus;
- how you felt afterwards and what you did.



Image: [www.press.thechosen.tv](http://www.press.thechosen.tv)

Mark 1:40-45

Imagine you are an onlooker at the healing of the leper and manage to take a photo to capture one specific moment. Draw the image below. Compose the message you would send with this image to a friend to explain what happened in that precise moment. You can include relevant hashtags and emoji.

A black and white icon of a smartphone. The phone has a black border and a white screen. At the top, there is a small white horizontal bar representing the earpiece. At the bottom, there is a large white circle representing the home button.[illegible]