

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

Word of God Sunday 7 February 2021



*Readings for
this week:*
Job 7:1-4,6-7
1 Cor 9: 16-19,22-23
Mark 1:29-39



*Readings for
next Sunday:*
Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Mark 1:40-45



Liturgical Jottings

Prayer for the sick

Thursday 11 February, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. The ministry of Jesus included healing and prayers for the disabled and sick, as seen in today's Gospel. Healing is both a ministry of Jesus' compassion and a sign of the coming of the Kingdom of God. The miracle of Lourdes is healing of the sick, encouragement of faith and spiritual well-being and conversion of the world. Our liturgy contains many prayers for the sick and the dying, Mass of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and more recently Mass in time of pandemic. "O God, only support of our human weakness, show the power of your protection over your servants who are sick, that, sustained by your merciful help, they may be restored to your Church in good health." *Prayer after Communion, Mass for the Sick*

Looking at the Readings

"The" is the most common word in written English. It appears nine times in the Gospel passage today. But there is another word appearing 15 times in the same passage. Computers allow scholars to quickly analyse and compare original texts to assist in recognising patterns, sources and special words with relevant meanings. Mark uses the word "and" more than any other evangelist and biblical writer: 15 times in this passage. This Sabbath day races along in high activity; the scenes are connected by "and".

"[Jesus] went to [Peter's mother-in-law], took her by the hand **and** helped her up. **And** the fever left her **and** she began to wait on them." Mark compresses this encounter into a few words but at the same time packs a lot of meaning. After a big day out Jesus went home, out of concern and compassion, healed the woman thus enabling her to be the courteous hostess for the visitors. Hospitality is very important in that culture and time. Moreover Jesus "Messianic healing" manifests his authority and gives the person the opportunity to respond to the call to believe in the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

"After Sunset" is another expression of economy of words. The Sabbath Day restrictions are over: the Sabbath is from one sunset to the next. People may resume their tasks and go visiting one another. Also under the cover of darkness the quarantined and isolated may get out of their dwellings in order to come and seek help from Jesus. They do that in large numbers and we hear many are cured. Everywhere the Good News is proclaimed.

Pope Francis: World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Jesus' words, "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28) point to the mysterious path of grace that is revealed to the simple and gives new strength to those who are weary and tired. These words of Christ express the solidarity of the Son of Man with all those who are hurt and afflicted. How many people suffer in both body and soul! Jesus urges everyone to draw near to him – "Come to me!" – and he promises them comfort and repose. "When Jesus says this, he has before him the people who are marginalised by the burden of the law and the oppressive social system... Jesus' words always give hope!" *Pope's Message 2020 para. 1*

On the Lighter Side

In a democracy it's your vote that counts;

in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Raffaele Mandaradoni (1 Month)
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Mario Muto, Coral Rielly, Angelo Serra
	Our sick and their carers	

Open letter to the Premier

In the Narthex is a copy of the open letter about the conversion therapy legislation currently being considered by the Victorian parliament, addressed to the Premier from the Bishops of Victoria and the Islamic Council.

It has been written on behalf of the Muslim and Catholic communities in Victoria in solidarity with other people of faith, expressing profound concern over the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020

Along the Track – Cathedral Thinking

Author Rick Antonson celebrates this form of long-term thinking as 'a gift to future generations.' He wrote: "From the first seeds sown thousands of years ago, to the construction of the cities we still inhabit, to the scientific discoveries that have ensured our survival, we are the inheritors of countless gifts from the past". He added: "it is not what we do that matters, it's what we cause to happen. We should all be involved in unfinished work." So what is our unfinished work? What will be our gift to future generations?

Copies in the Narthex

Mass Timetable Week commencing 8th February

Weekday Mass

Monday 8 th February	No Mass
Tuesday 9 th February	No Mass
Wednesday 10 th February	9:15 am
Thursday 11 th February	No Mass
Friday 12 th February	9:15 am

Weekend Mass

Saturday 13 th February	5:30 pm
Sunday 14 th February	9:30 am

Reconciliation (in the Nuns Chapel)

Saturday 13 th February	11:30 am
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Palms Australia Reach Beyond

Low-income communities are not asking us for money or gifts. They reject degrading dependence. They want you to share your skills to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their people and the capacity of their organisations. To properly prepare for a 2022 placement you do need to **enquire now**.

Find out more:

Ross House, Mezzanine-Sue Healy Room
247 Flinders Lane, MELBOURNE
Saturday 20 February @ 10:00am
palms.org.au

World Day of Prayer & Action Against Human Trafficking

Pope Francis has designated 8th February, the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, as the World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking.

Josephine Bakhita was born in Southern Sudan in 1869. During her life she experienced kidnapping and slavery in both Sudan and Italy. After gaining her freedom Josephine dedicated her life to sharing her story and to supporting the poor and suffering. She became a Canossian Sister and was canonised in 2000. This weekend may each of us be willing to find time to learn a little more about human trafficking and slavery in the world today. See what you can do at www.acrath.org.au

Looking for a Cleaner

We are looking for someone who could come and clean the Parish House one day a fortnight – preferably on a Wednesday or Friday.

General cleaning including, cleaning bathrooms, dusting, wiping down benches, vacuuming etc. For more information call Mary on 0484 332 397.