



6th

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

- Mk 1:40-41

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2002



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg
Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

Office Hours: 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday

Parish Office: Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St Ph: 07 4151 6666 Email: sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au PO Box 79 Bundaberg Q 4670

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Peter Tonti PP

Parish Priest

Rev Andrew Hogan

Associate Pastor

Mrs Anne Sheehan

Liturgy & Sacramental Coordinator

Mrs Denise Tuzes

Visitation & Bereavement Coordinator

Mrs Diana Pippia

Administration & Finance Coordinator

Mrs Kaye Andersen

Receptionist

Bundaberg NET

Youth Ministry

SCHOOLS

**St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School**

Principal: Mrs Kaye Beston

sjbgrok.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 4151 4771

**St Mary's Catholic
Primary School**

Principal: Ms Madonna Davitt

stmarysbundaberg.qld.edu.au

Ph: 4152 2167

**St Patrick's Catholic
Primary School**

Principal: Mr Mark Fox

saintpatricks.qld.edu.au

Ph: 4152 1380

Shalom College

Principal: Mr Dan McMahon

shalomcollege.com

Ph: 4155 8111

CHURCHES

Holy Rosary Church

Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Sts

St Patrick's Church

16 Powers St

St Mary's Church

Cnr Barolin & Boston Sts

St James' Church

38 See St Barga

OTHER CONTACTS

Diocesan Safeguarding

Daniel Donnini: 4887 3080

The Diocese of Rockhampton

Response Line: 1800 830 113

Centacare: 1300 523 985

St Vincent de Paul: 4151 5455

Ozcare: 1800 692 273

Towards Healing: 1800 337 928

AFTER HOURS

**Anointing of the Sick
for Medical Emergencies**

Phone 4151 6666
& follow the prompts.

FOCUS by Anne Sheehan

WELCOME

Last Thursday evening over drinks and nibblies we welcomed eight (8) new families now resident in our parish. They came from other states, towns, and countries. They came to retire or work in our city. We heard their stories and hopes for their life in Bundaberg and in our parish. They have settled into all our Mass communities. We welcome them. I wonder if you have met them? They remind us that there are always strangers in our midst, maybe the person sitting beside you this weekend, who need to feel welcomed.

Likewise the many children and adults who are preparing to be welcomed into the Body of Christ through the sacraments of initiation at Easter, or who are completing their initiation through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

We, the parish community, are the primary ministers of initiation and welcome. It is into the life of our faith community that they will be baptised, confirmed and / or nourished by the Eucharist. Each Sunday there are those among us who are preparing for these sacred sacramental moments. At this present time the Holy Spirit is at work, guiding the lives of nearly one hundred (100) children and adults, hovering over them as they decide to belong to the discipleship of Christ.

Who are they? How will you identify them? They will be the ones, possibly, who come forward for a blessing on the communion procession. They might be the ones who ask for directions to find a bulletin or song sheet or other information about our parish, or the one who looks uncertain about responses and postures. Welcome them with a kind word or smile of encouragement for that is the responsibility of an initiating community.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS: If you witnessed a miracle, wouldn't you want to tell everyone? If you saw the sun dance in the sky, a crippled man walk, or the Virgin Mary appear in front of you, wouldn't you just want to shout about it from a rooftop so all could hear? Maybe you would be afraid others would not believe you. You might choose instead to keep it to yourself to avoid criticism and ridicule. At least, if you saw a miracle, you would have a choice: to tell or not to tell. Yet, at every Mass we witness a miracle. We witness bread and wine as it becomes the true presence of Jesus Christ. It isn't a saint or Mary appearing before us; it is actually Jesus! When was the last time you told anybody about that miracle?

It might not be easy for us to always talk about our faith, but we can show them. When we receive the Eucharist into our bodies, we become one with Christ. We go forth from the Mass as a living testimony of the miracle that occurred at Mass. People will not be able to simply look at us and see the evidence. We need to demonstrate to them the reality of this miracle by our good deeds and profound acts of charity. That is stewardship. That is bearing witness to the truth of our God being truly present to us. It is something we should want to share with everyone.

LITURGY

ABSTINENCE: Those who are over fourteen (14) years of age are bound by the law of abstinence. No meat may be eaten on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting: Those who have completed their eighteenth year are bound by the law of fasting until their sixtieth year. Fasting means having only one full meal to maintain one's strength. Two smaller, meatless and penitential meals are permitted according to one's needs.

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

On this World Day of Prayer for the Sick we are reminded that we are all called to respond to the sick with tenderness and compassion, love and support. As we ask a blessing on them and those who care for them, we remember the sick in countries where health care systems are inadequate or non-existent.

NOTICES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

are invited for the full-time position of

Stewardship Co-ordinator

commencing March 2018

for **The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg.**

Applicants can access a Role Description by contacting the Parish Office on 4151 6666 or bundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au. This role will coordinate Stewardship Ministry, Adult Faith Formation & Youth Ministry. Applications close Wednesday, 21 February 2018.

The CWLA Younger Set: are meeting for dinner at Sabrosa Steak House on **Tuesday, 13 February 2018** at 6.30pm. If any younger ladies would like to join us, you would be very welcome. For further information or to book please phone Maureen on 4152 1263 before noon on Tuesday,

Secondary Students' Sacramental Program: begins from 4.00pm, **Sunday, 11 February 2018** in the Parish Office for any young person wishing to prepare for the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Communion or Penance. For further information, contact Anne Sheehan at the Parish Office.

Sacramental Program: a Family Session on '**Reconciliation**' will be held on **Sunday, 18 February 2018** at **10.30am** in the Parish Office **OR** on **Wednesday, 21 February 2018** at **7.00pm** in the Parish Office. For further information, contact Anne Sheehan.

R.I. Teacher's Book Collection: from 8.00am to 1.00pm Friday, 16 February 2018 in the Novakoski Centre (*behind Holy Rosary Church*).

Stations of the Cross: every Friday during Lent at 5.30pm at St James' Catholic Church, Bargara & 7pm at St Patrick's Catholic Church. Begins Friday, 16 February 2018.

Rosters: are being prepared for April, May & June. It is extremely important that you ring the Parish Office *before Friday, 23 February 2018* if you need to make changes to your Ministry &/or your contact, or if you will be away for an *extended* period of time during these three (3) months. *No changes can be made to the Rosters after 23 February 2018.*

OPEN FINANCE MEETING

As per previous years, your Parish Finance Committee invites you to attend the **Open Finance Meeting** at 5.30pm on Thursday, **1 March 2018** in the Parish Office. Items to be discussed include:

- Budget Review
- Planned Giving Review
- Parish Income Options
- Cool Church Committee Formation
- Capital Works Projects
- Asset Review

The Parish Finance Committee looks forward to seeing you there.

Date Claimer: 24 Hours for the Lord ~ Friday, 16 March 2018 from 12:15pm in Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Every Parishioner & Prayer Group is asked to spend an hour with the Lord in prayer & adoration.

The Southern Deanery Steering Committee: for the 2019 Diocesan Assembly includes representatives from the Parishes of Bundaberg, Monto, Gladstone, Callide & Dawson Valleys. The four (4) representatives nominated from the Bundaberg Parish are Trish Ingall; Dan McMahon; Pauline Merefield & Cheryl Petersen.

The Little Black Easter Books: are available from all Churches & the Parish Office at a cost of \$3.00. Limited Children's Purple Books available.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Baptisms: Hudson Sebastien Smith & Elouise Grace White.

LITURGIES

6th Week of Ordinary Time

Monday 12 February 2018

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

2.00pm Fairways

- Mass with Anointing

Tuesday 13 February 2018

9.00am St James - LWC

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 14 February 2018

Ash Wednesday

6.30am St Marys - Mass

7.00am St James' - Mass

8.00am Shalom - Mass

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 15 February 2018

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

Friday 16 February 2018

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 17 February 2018

7.30am St Mary's - LWC

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

NEXT SUNDAY

18 February 2018

First Sunday of Lent

Year B (II) Psalter Week 1

Saturday

6.00pm St Patrick's

Sunday

7.00am St James'

8.00am Holy Rosary

9.00am St Mary's

5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-15

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel

Mark 1:12-15



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

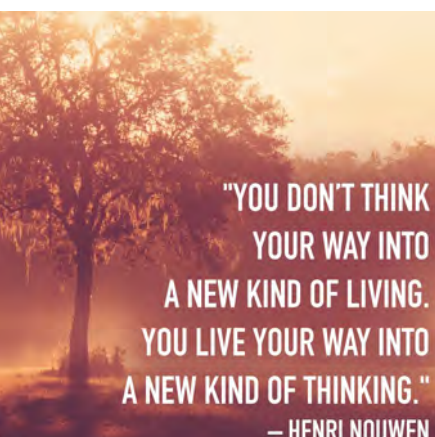
Ancient Israelites quarantined those suffering from leprosy out of fear the disease would spread to others. In what ways does our society make rules out of fear of the other?

1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

Paul places a high premium on being Christ-like to others, inviting the Corinthian Christians to imitate him in this regard. What in Paul's life do you think modern believers should imitate?

Mark 1:40-45

What was the unintended consequence experienced by Jesus as a result of healing the leper? Did this surprise you?



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

In relationship with Christ,
empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we serve joyfully as a people
beloved and called by God.

Jesus proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom, by preaching and by the healings that signalled the Kingdom's mysterious coming in his own person.

Critical studies of the miracle narratives of the four gospels have produced important conclusions. They concern a relatively small number of events – about 30 in all. These narratives offer a distinct contrast to the characteristics of typical 'wonder stories'. Though part of the Christian message from the beginning, they are constantly associated with a concern that they not give rise to a superficial popular enthusiasm, but be understood as signs of the coming of the Kingdom. We have already recognised the importance of this concern of Mark. His account of the healing of the leper, as Jesus begins his Galilean ministry presses home the point.

What a magnificent encounter with which to introduce the missionary journeys of Jesus. It would be hard to find a more telling symbol of the human miseries that Jesus was sent to overcome, than the plight of the leper who threw himself at the feet of Jesus – *'If you want to you can cure me'*. *It was a situation produced in large part by human ignorance and fear, accentuated by traditions of ritual cleanness. Our first reading from Leviticus describes this pathetic condition in graphic detail – obliged to wear torn clothes, with hair dishevelled, and sounding the warning cry, 'Unclean!'*, that ostracised the leper from normal society. What the biblical writings called 'leprosy' included not only the dread Hansen's disease, but many other skin disorders, many of which modern medicine recognises not to be contagious.

As the Saviour is moved with compassion in the presence of this human misery, we are reminded that the Servant of God of the late Isaian writings, who embodied God's saving designs, by 'bearing the sorrows' of the people, is described as assuming the condition of a leper – *'Despised, familiar with suffering, one from whom we averted our gaze'* (Is 53:3). In fact, Jesus made an astounding gesture of solidarity with the man in his misery. As he healed the leper with his word of prophetic authority, he *'stretched out his hand and touched him'*. In doing so, according to the Law, he had made himself ritually unclean.

Those who claimed the power of healing were not uncommon in the world in which Jesus lived. Being seen as one of their number could seriously compromise the evangelising mission that had been so tellingly expressed in the healing of the leper. Jesus urged the man, therefore, to go off quietly, fulfilling the Law's prescription by having the priests verify his cure. But the man who had been cured could not contain himself. So important, however was it to Jesus – that the notoriety his healing had attracted be minimised – that he was forced to keep away from the towns. Nevertheless, the people were still drawn to him – Who is this man?