

7 FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday Message

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 1

BEING HEALED AND SERVING (MARK 1:29-39)

Mark has established Jesus as the teacher with authority and gives us an example of a typical day's activity, which reflects the Jewish hope that the Messianic age would eliminate both Satan and disease.

Jesus touches Peter's sick mother-in-law and helps her up: physical touching is often a feature in healing stories. This incident takes place immediately after Jesus' encounter with the evil spirit in the possessed man and is the first of eight healing works of Jesus, four of which concern women. Mark then tells us that in the evening, Jesus healed a great number of sick people who had been brought to him. Illness was often associated with demonic possession, and we find that after such healings Jesus often commands silence about what he has done: Mark is careful that his readers should not regard miracles (or "works of power") as proof of Jesus' divine status.

The next day, Jesus goes off early by himself to "a lonely place", literally "a desert place", suggesting a spot where the person could be in close contact with God. Peter and the others track him down and tell him that "everybody is looking for you". Mark often uses what we would probably consider exaggeration to express the universal element of the Gospel. A strong theme in Mark's account is that people of all sorts misunderstand Jesus: this negative note is sounded here and will develop throughout Jesus' ministry. Capernaum serves as the base from which his preaching mission will spread out to embrace the whole of Galilee. ■

REFLECT

One of the unfortunate characteristics of biblical narrative is that so many of the women who feature in the stories remain anonymous. In our Gospel reading today, for example, the four male disciple companions of Jesus are identified by name, but we have no such complementary detail about Peter's mother-in-law. Mark tells us that when she rose from her sickbed, she began "to wait on them": this is the verb usually translated as "to serve", and the only human beings who are mentioned as "serving" in the Gospel tradition are women. Jesus uses the term in his teaching on leadership, that among the disciples the leader is one who "serves", not one who rules or dominates. Another point we might notice is that the verb in question comes from the same root as the noun which gives us the English word "deacon".

We later find that the women are the link witness element in the crucial events of Jesus' death, burial and the events at the tomb of Jesus on Easter morning, after the male disciples had abandoned him in Gethsemane.

In any discussion about the ministry of women in the Church, we might take the New Testament evidence into account, especially Paul's remark that through baptism, there is now "no longer male nor female" in Christ (Gal 3:28). We also should distinguish those customs which belong to historical and cultural systems or prejudice and which have little to do with the revealed word of God. ■



Christ healing Peter's mother-in-law, mosaic in Cora Church, Istanbul

LEARN

The only other subjects who "serve" in the Gospel story (apart from women) are angels.

Peter, James and John are shown as being Jesus' companions at certain privileged and private occasions, such as the transfiguration and Gethsemane.

Illness in the Bible is seen as belonging to the realm opposed to God: total well-being is expressed by the word *shalom*, usually translated as "peace".

DO

Observe the waiters in a restaurant or café as you sit there or pass by; notice who prepares meals for the others in your home. How does their example reflect the idea of leadership in the Church and your parish?

SAY

Your leader must be as one who serves.

(see Luke 22:26)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing
care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly
grace,
they may be defended always by your
protection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of Job.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than
pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his
wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, "When will it be day?"
Risen I think, "How slowly evening comes!"
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have
passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 146

Response:

Praise the Lord who heals the
broken-hearted.

or
Alleluia!

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. (R.)

2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars:
he calls each one by its name. (R.)
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since
it is a duty which has been laid on me; I
should be punished if I did not preach it! If
I had chosen this work myself, I might have
been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a
responsibility which has been put into my
hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is
this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the
Good News free, and not insist on the rights
which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I
have made myself the slave of everyone so
as to win as many as I could. For the weak I
made myself weak. I made myself all things
to all men in order to save some at any cost;
and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel,
to have a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
anyone who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with
James and John straight to the house of
Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-
in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they
told him about her straightaway. He went to
her, took her by the hand and helped her up.
And the fever left her and she began to wait
on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to
him all who were sick and those who were
possessed by devils. The whole town came
crowding round the door and he cured many
who were suffering from diseases of one kind
or another; he also cast out many devils, but
he would not allow them to speak, because
they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got
up and left the house, and went off to a
lonely place and prayed there. Simon and
his companions set out in search of him, and
when they found him they said, "Everybody
is looking for you." He answered, "Let us
go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country
towns, so that I can preach there too, because
that is why I came." And he went all through
Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and
casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord our God,
who once established these created things
to sustain us in our frailty,
grant, we pray,
that they may become for us now
the Sacrament of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who have willed that we be partakers
in the one Bread and the one Chalice,
grant us, we pray, so to live
that, made one in Christ,
we may joyfully bear fruit
for the salvation of the world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Holiness is not for wimps and the cross is not
negotiable, sweetheart, it's a requirement.

Mother Angelica

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon

1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest:	Fr. Jamie McGrath	Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary:	Lisa Paterson	Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours:	10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday	
Office Email:	abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	
<i>We live stream all services</i>		
Safeguarding Team:	Tel. 07572 935 230	
Visits at JR Hospital:	Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732	
Visits and Help:	Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office	
Parish Website:	www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk	
Primary School:	St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558	



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Please note that during this pandemic period, and until further notice, the Parish Office opening hours will be from **Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. Outside of these times, Fr Jamie will respond to urgent phone messages as soon as he can.

PRIVATE PRAYER

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- ✙ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- ✙ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm**

MASS BOOKINGS:

On Monday 8th February you can book for Masses from Sunday 14th to Saturday 20th February.

Note that there will be a Mass at 9am and 7pm on Ash Wednesday (17th February).

PLEASE remember to give as many dates and times when you could attend – otherwise you may be disappointed. *We are currently limited to 20 people at each Mass.* Also be clear on the number of people you are booking for and let us know if you would like to attend more than one Mass during the week.

HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS

No Internet Access?

Phone **07395 946827** **EACH MONDAY** between 10am and 11am **ONLY** to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

Have Internet Access?

DON'T phone. Instead, email:
contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk

EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

NEWSLETTERS

Please remember that we are currently still not able to offer newsletters or any other printed material in church. Please bring your own with you if you would like to (you can download it from our website).

5th Week of Ordinary Time (Year B)

Attendance through booking system only, but also available on our live stream

Sunday 7 February

10.15am	Mass	(Cameron Paterson intentions – 22 nd birthday)
6.30pm	Mass	(Special intentions)

Monday 8 February

9am	Mass	(Marigold Hutton, RIP)
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Tuesday 9 February

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other masses

Wednesday 10 February St Scholastica

7pm	Mass	(Mary Graylen family intentions)
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Thursday 11 February

9.30am	Mass	(Martin Carroll, RIP)
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Friday 12 February

7pm	Mass	(Helen Lindenberg, RIP)
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Saturday 13 February Our Lady on Saturday

12pm	Mass	(Special intention)
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SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

FAITH IN THE TIME OF COVID

If you were unable to follow Bishop Philip's presentation last Sunday on "The Role of Faith in the Time of COVID", you can still do so from the News page on our website where we have a link to both the text and the video.



BEATING WORLD LEPROSY

The organisation, *Lepra* works to find, treat and rehabilitate those people who cannot access treatment for leprosy, and promote their rights in India, Bangladesh, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Their mission is to beat leprosy – so that all cases are easily diagnosed and treated and leave no disability or discrimination. They are working towards a day when leprosy no longer destroys lives; with your support they can achieve this sooner.

Please help them to beat leprosy – even the smallest contribution can help treat and rehabilitate people trapped by this disease.

https://donate.lepra.org.uk/LepraDonate?activity_id=17351

LENT FAMILY FAST DAY

This is an early reminder that the CAFOD Lent family fast day will be on 26th February. There is a short video on the News page of our website and more information will also be available in a later newsletter.

CONTINUE TO PRAY DURING THE PANDEMIC...

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

...AND TO ST JOSEPH

*Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph,
whose power makes the impossible possible,
come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.
Take under your protection the
serious and troubling situations that I commend to you,
that they may have a happy outcome.
My beloved father, all my trust is in you.
Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain,
and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary,
show me that your goodness is as great as your power.
Amen.*

WE PRAY FOR

The repose of the soul of Mary Einon



LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Lent is a time of Hope and Healing! The light and promise of Eastertide shines ever more brightly in the darkness.

Ash Wednesday is on 17th February – the beginning of Lent. To help support you on your Lenten journey this year **we invite** you to join our parish *2021 Lenten 'Hope and Healing' Prayer and Reflections* by zoom.

Beginning on **Thursday 18th February** the course will continue every Thursday throughout Lent and will include a variety of reflections, scripture, Sycamore films, and the opportunity for prayer. Everyone is welcome to join all or any of the sessions and people can choose whether to participate in various discussions and sharing or can simply listen and reflect if they prefer.

Hope and Healing will be hosted by the parish RCIA team and anyone interested should contact Pauline on pehanley@hotmail.com or call 07506 753085 to register for the zoom link.

SPIRITUALITY SERIES & A LENTEN RETREAT

The Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality (CACS) is happy to announce a new spirituality series - **LIGHT for THE WORLD** on Sundays, and a weekly Lenten retreat "**Be Drawn to Christ**" on Wednesdays, to engage your faith journey. Information and registration instructions are available on the News page of our website.



WHY CHOOSE OLA LOWER SCHOOL?

Meet the Principal, staff and pupils to find out in a 30-minute introduction for prospective parents to OLA's **Lower School**.

The event will be available over Zoom on three different days:

- Thursday 11 February 2021 | 4.00pm–4.30pm
- Wednesday 24 February 2021 | 4.00pm–4.30pm
- Saturday 6 March 2021 | 11.00am–11.30am

Register to join a session at www.olab.org.uk/virtual-meet-the-principal

We hope to meet you online soon.

OLA Lower School is a Catholic independent day school for age 7–11s accepting children of all faiths and none.