

READINGS AND REFLECTION FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS 13:1-2, 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron,

“If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man’s skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected.

The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

‘The man is leprous: he is unclean.

The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head.

A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, “Unclean, unclean.”

As long as the disease lasts, he must be unclean;

and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 31:1-2, 5, 11

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.

O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile.

**I TURN TO YOU, LORD, IN TIME OF TROUBLE,
AND YOU FILL ME WITH THE JOY OF SALVATION.**

But now I have acknowledged my sins. My guilt I did not hide.

I said, “I will confess my offence to the Lord.”

And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin.

**I TURN TO YOU, LORD, IN TIME OF TROUBLE,
AND YOU FILL ME WITH THE JOY OF SALVATION.**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart.

**I TURN TO YOU, LORD, IN TIME OF TROUBLE,
AND YOU FILL ME WITH THE JOY OF SALVATION.**

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 10:31 - 11:1

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God.

Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times,

not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Luke 7:16

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees:

“If you want to,” he said, “ you can cure me.”

Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.

“Of course I want to!” he said. “Be cured!”

And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured.

Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him,

“Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.”

The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere,

so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived.

Even so, people from all around would come to him.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.

REFLECTION

from Fr Michael Fallon MSC and Sr Patricia Stevenson RSJ

Science has helped us, through CoVid, to realise our vulnerability. Like the ‘leper’ (maybe not the ‘Hanson’s Disease’ leprosy we know of), we look for healing in our bodies, minds, emotions, dislocated relationships, personal security and deeply in our souls. Our overcoming of CoVid relates to every aspect of our lives, including our awareness of God and how we relate to God personally and together?

Healers were prevalent in the Roman, Greek and Jewish worlds in Jesus’ time. Scholars conclude that Jesus did what people considered ‘miraculous’. However, Mark’s Gospel’s portrayal of Jesus’ healing (and his ‘secrecy’) has another purpose - to teach us who Jesus is and about the nature of his ministry.

‘If you want to, you can cure me,’ says the leper. Even today, we can ask for whatever we desire trusting in God’s abundant, faithful and personal love for us to know what is good for us. God’s Spirit will grace us with whatever healing will help us grow as loving persons and will lead us in our relationships through Jesus to the Father. Surely the darkest of what can happen in life will still confront and challenge us. Let us pray that through prayer, learning and our response, we may let God’s gifts of faith, hope and love empower us with vision and resilience to live with gratitude, commitment to others, welcome for the outcasts and zest for all we can contribute.