

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;
singing 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.**

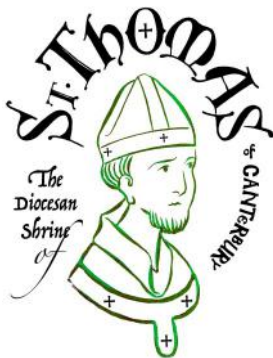
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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


NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>  St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is Closed & Linda is working from home. Linda can access emails via the church email so please contact her this way initially.

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00pm (Vigil): Ossie Correa - RIP (*Noronha Family*)

Sunday 7th Feb: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mk 1: 29-39

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Norah Whiting - RIP (*John Whiting*)

11.00am: The Carr Family - Thanksgiving

6.00 pm: for all NHS frontline workers (*Judith Roser*)

Monday 8th Feb: St Josephine Bakhita Mk 6:53-56

DAY FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

7.30am: for all L'Arche core members & Assistants

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Radha's welfare (*Roberta Johnson*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Tuesday 9th Feb: Feria Mk 7: 1-13

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Welfare of Family & Friends (*Tessa Metcalfe*)

6.00 pm Live-streamed Prayer

Wednesday 10th Feb: St Scholastica Mk 7: 14-23

7.30am: for all Parishioners struggling with Covid-19

10.30am: Reconciliation

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: John Wilkins - RIP (*Jo Wilkens*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Thursday 11th Feb: Our Lady of Lourdes Mk 7: 24-30

WORLD DAY FOR THE SICK

7.30am: for all those unable to visit Lourdes at this time

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Richard Saunders - RIP (*Jo Wilkens*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

7.30 - 8.30pm: Adoration for Young Adults with Fr John

Friday 12th Feb: Feria Mk 7: 31-37

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Welfare of Joan Olsen (*Martina Clark*)

1 - 3 pm: Church open for private prayer and adoration

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: Mary Burt - RIP (*UCM Members*)

Saturday 13th Feb: Feria Mk 8: 1-10

10.30am: Reconciliation

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Eva on her birthday (*Roberta Johnson*)

6.00pm (Vigil): John Mehlin (*Miriam*)

2nd Collection:
Poor Parishes

Sunday 14th Feb: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mk 1: 40-45

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Kevin - RIP (his family)

11.00am: for all NHS frontline workers (*Judith Roser*)

6.00 pm: Welfare of Mrs Strien and Family

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Pat Gill, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Pippa Swan, Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Jean Boyce and

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Carol Mary Kidby, Anna Hesketh, Tom Hodges, Rebecca Judge, Gertraude Katherine Brock, Vera Fletcher, Maria Daniels, Maria Prado, Hannelore Hall, Bernie Fisher, Joseph McKee, Tony Kenny, Michael Jones, Douglas Ricketts, Maurice Crosland, Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald, Anna Koeller, Fr Michael Gwinnell, Ann Sexton, Paulina Manfredini, Fr Michael Boland, Fr George Webster, Theresa Ramsundar, Canon Frank O'Sullivan, Margaret Willis, Rev Paul Saunders and Sylvia Guy

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

Margaret Stevenson and Raymond Scott

SECOND COLLECTION: Our retiring collection next weekend, 13/14 February 2021 is for **Poor Parishes**. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese.

STIPENDS FOR MASS INTENTIONS: A Mass Stipend is the monetary gift paid directly to the Priest when a Mass is said for a particular intention (welfare of an individual, in remembrance (RIP) and for many other reasons). We are blessed to have Masses said in our parish every day and five times for Sunday obligation, giving plenty of opportunity to have a Mass said for your particular intention. Please contact Linda on the parish email if you wish to have a Mass said thereby supporting the priests of our Parish directly. If you wish to discuss your Mass requests telephonically, please include your phone contact on the email and Linda will phone you.

ASH WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2021: Bookings for the three Masses on Ash Wednesday, will need to be made through Eventbrite (as was done at Christmas). Booking information will be on the website after the weekend or phone Linda in the office on Monday, 15th.
Masses are 9.30am; 12 noon and 7.30pm

From Fr Anthony ...

Ash Wednesday is in ten days time and the beginning of our Lenten Season. This year I seem to be getting many emails and messages about various courses and ideas that we can sign up to for Lent. My concern is that we don't forget that Lent is a time for preparation for the celebration of Easter. As we are reminded in the Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, "Lent prepares for Easter. It is a time to hear the Word of God, to convert, to prepare for and remember Baptism, to be reconciled with God and one's neighbour, and of more frequent recourse to the arms of Christian penance: prayer, fasting and good works." For us at St Thomas of Canterbury there is two young people preparing for baptism at Easter and they with those who being received into full communion, are beginning the stage of Purification and Enlightenment. By Purification we are directed to a searching of the conscience which should lead to penance and by Enlightenment those to be baptised being brought to a deeper understanding of God himself, especially as revealed in Jesus Christ. We can also join with them on this journey of faith during these six weeks, and experience our own purification and enlightenment'

Here are some of the options that we are encouraged to look at to help us in our journey to Easter The newly formed Diocesan Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis have suggested a series of resources for reflection and mediation. These can be viewed here

<https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/lent-possibilities>

The Spirituality Commission of the Archdiocese of Southwark is offering a Lenten retreat. As part of the retreat, participants will receive a welcome email a week before the start — explaining the structure of the retreat and how to prepare and a weekly email starting on Ash Wednesday and ending on the Wednesday of Holy Week with a link to the video input and some prayer materials

During each week of Lent, Archbishop John Wilson will introduce the video, the Sunday Gospel will be read and then follows a brief talk exploring themes connected with the Gospel. The input can be viewed at any time to suit you. The talk will be accompanied by suggestions for prayer and reflection through the week. The link is <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme>

Canterbury Anglican Deanery is doing a five week course entitled "Exploring God's Mercy: Five Images of Salvation" This consists of God loves you passionately, deeply and unconditionally. Exploring the depth, strength and constancy of this love is a lifetime's journey. Go further on that journey. No one can be left unchanged by this depth of love and so each session begins and ends with a simple act of prayer and worship. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter. You need to book by this Friday 12th February.

This Lent as part of Almsgiving I encourage you to contribute to CAFODs Lenten appeal.

Details of this can be found here <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent-Appeal>

For those who don't use the internet we will have Lenten booklets with a meditation for each day of Lent called *Walk with Me*.

The beginning of our journey to Easter is starting soon. Be prepared.

Looking to Lent (Canterbury Anglican Deanery)- [Exploring God's Mercy: Five Images of Salvation](#)

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Sessions:

W/B Feb 22nd *Lost and Found: Hungry and Satisfied*

W/B March 1st *In Prison and Set Free*

W/B March 8th *Sick and Made Well*

W/B March 15th *Storm Tossed and Comforted*

W/B March 22nd *Living the Fruitful Life*

Interested or have questions? – Please email Rosemary Walters **ASAP and BY FRIDAY FEB 12th AT THE LATEST** at ra.walters@btinternet.com. Tell us: your name and church; if you do/do not have Zoom access; if you would be prepared to facilitate a group and/or be the Zoom host (extended Zoom not required); and what afternoon/evening would suit you best. The groups will be Zoom online, for those without Zoom access we can order the book: £6.99 **By joining you are agreeing to your Zoom host having your email address.**

First Reconciliation & Holy Communion Programme 2021

It has been difficult to plan the First Holy Communion programme for 2021 as we are not allowed to have the usual teaching sessions with the children due to the Covid restrictions. We would still like to run the programme if there are parents who would like their child to make their First Reconciliation and Holy Communion this year. With this in mind, we have come up with a timetable which would begin in March with a view to the children making their First Holy Communion on the **Feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday 5th June 2021**. Parents would have to prepare the children using the 'I Belong' book. **I Belong** is a very child friendly resource, with lively, colourful material which is based on the framework of our celebration of the Eucharist (Mass). There would, of course, be support from Fr. John and Annie Keane (catechist). The support will involve 6 sessions over zoom. The sessions are designed to aid you in teaching your children, provide a space for you to give feedback on your progress and to ask any questions about the programme. If you would like your child to take part this year, please email the parish office (canterbury@rcaos.org.uk) for a registration form and return it by the **18th of February 2021**. Children must be Year 3 or above.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY. Don't forget Family Fast Day is on Friday, 26th February 2021.

During February, please pray for all **unborn babies and women facing crisis pregnancies.**

Get our Parish Newsletter emailed directly to you by subscribing at stthomasofcanterbury.com/newsletters/ This weekly eNewsletter also shares additional information from around the Parish.