



Fresco in the Baptistery of Parma, Italy of Jesus healing the ten lepers

In the Gospel tradition, there is one example of Jesus healing someone who is suffering from the condition known as leprosy.

The term covered a wide range of skin complaints from the wasting disease of that name to the relatively harmless (though unfortunate) condition of eczema. People with that illness found themselves excluded from normal life in society as others regarded them as a danger because of the infectious nature of their ailment. Illness was also often regarded as a punishment for sin, so such individuals were consigned to a kind of “living death”, and to be cured of leprosy was seen as equivalent to being raised from the dead: it required God to act.

It is against this background that we might understand the story in today’s Gospel. The afflicted person’s request is a statement from Mark about Jesus’ identity: the expression “if you want to” really means “if you have the power”. The human aspect of Jesus is brought to the fore when he is shown as being deeply moved and physically touching the infected one in front of him, thus technically contracting the condition of ritual uncleanness himself. By doing so, Jesus does away with the barrier between what is holy and what is not. Jesus observes the teaching of the Holiness Code of the book of Leviticus by telling the cured person to fulfil the prescriptions of the Law. He imposes silence on him at the same time, an instruction which the man immediately disregards: we will find this pattern frequently in Mark’s narrative. ■

## REFLECT

There are some interesting paradoxes in today’s Gospel episode. Mark implies that Jesus has divine power in that he can cure the person suffering from leprosy, but then tells us that Jesus is moved to the depths of his being by feeling compassion for him. Jesus tells the man to observe the stipulations of the Law of Moses, but he himself has no compunction in setting aside the strict rules in the same Law about avoiding contact with a person suffering from leprosy, to the extent of touching him with his hand. Jesus gives the healed man an instruction not to talk about what has happened, an order which he cheerfully ignores and so Jesus’ fame rapidly spreads.

We find in this story the tension between the Law and the good of the individual person, which the evangelists often present through incidents which take place on the sabbath. Jesus sees the need of the person in front of him and responds to that, rather than simply imposing the letter of the Law. The purpose of the Law was to help people live close to God, but it could become a barrier, if people regarded it as an end in itself.

The Gospel presents us with standards which apply to the Church today. If we are overly concerned with the letter of the Law, we are in danger of forgetting what the Church is all about, namely to enable Jesus to touch people’s lives. ■

## SAY

Lord, we come to you seeking wholeness.

(Carey Landry)

## LEARN

The term “leprosy” covered all sorts of skin ailments, even less serious, non-infectious types.

The person suffering from leprosy was not only physically affected, but socially excluded from normal contact with others: they endured a kind of “living death”.

The stories of Jesus healing physical illness are illustrations of the deeper healing of the whole person.

## DO

There are organisations which help children who suffer from disfiguring ailments which prevent them from living a full, social life, just like the person suffering from leprosy in our Gospel reading. Consider sending a donation to support them.



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your  
name.

**GLORIA**

Glorify 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**

O God, who teach us that you abide  
in hearts that are just and true,  
grant that we may be so fashioned by your  
grace  
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.  
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** Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

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 leprosy: 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.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalms 31

Response:

You are my refuge, O Lord;  
You fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. 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. (R.)

2. 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. (R.)
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

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

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.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our mind,  
so that we can see what hope his call holds  
for us.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.

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.

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**

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse and renew us  
and may it become for those who do your will  
the source of eternal reward.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed in what they  
craved.

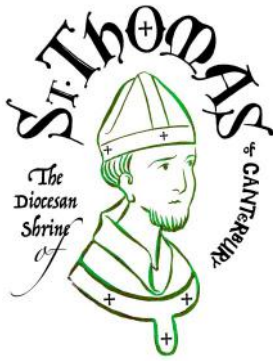
**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that we may always long  
for that food by which we truly live.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Do not grieve over temptations you suffer.  
When the Lord intends to bestow a particular  
virtue on us, He often permits us first to be  
tempted by the opposite vice. Therefore, look  
upon every temptation as an invitation to  
grow in a particular virtue and promise God  
that you will be successful, if only you stand  
fast.

*St Philip Neri*

# NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: [canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)

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

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: [anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: [johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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): 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

### Monday 15th Feb: Feria

Mk 8: 11-13

7.30 am: Alice & Cecil Humphery-Smith (*Anne Rooke*)  
10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration  
12 noon: Frances & Michael-Joe Keavney - RIP (*Mary & Geraldine*)  
6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

### Tuesday 16th Feb: Feria

Mk 8: 14-21

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration  
12 noon: Margaret Willis - RIP (*Fr Anthony*)  
6.00 pm Live-streamed Prayer

### Wednesday 17th Feb: ASH WEDNESDAY Mt 6: 1-6; 16-18

9.30 am: Pat Gill - RIP (*Eileen Browning*)  
10.00 am: Funeral of Theresa Ramsundar at Barham  
10.30am: Reconciliation  
12 noon: Welfare of Nancy Clark (*Martina Clark*)  
6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer  
7.30 pm Private Intention (*Fr Anthony*)

### Thursday 18th Feb: Feria

Lk 9: 22-25

7.30am: Welfare of John & Simone Sunderland (*John Renn*)  
10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration  
12 noon: Welfare of Gus Purbrick (*Sue Purbrick*)  
6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer  
7.30 - 8.30pm: Adoration for Young Adults with Fr John

### Friday 19th Feb: Feria

Mk 9: 14-15

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration  
12 noon: Hui Lai Sheung - RIP (*Helen Natrass*)  
1 - 3 pm: Church open for private prayer and adoration  
6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer  
7.30pm: Welfare of Margaret Tucker (*Fr Anthony*)

### Saturday 20th Feb: Feria

Lk 5: 27-32

10.30am: Reconciliation  
10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration  
12 noon: Canon Neville Emslie - Birthday (*Tessa Metcalfe*)

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

2nd Collection: SVP

### Sunday 21st Feb: 1st Sunday of Lent

Mk 1: 12-15

8.00am: Cecil Humphery-Smith - RIP (*Angela Nichols*)  
9.30am: Welfare of McKernan Family (*Hilary McKernan*)  
11.00am: John O'Driscoll - RIP (*Josie Carr*)  
6.00 pm: Mehlin & Mullett Families - living & deceased (*Miriam*)  
RITE OF ELECTION

## PARISH MATTERS

### Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, 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

### 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, Sylvia Guy and Pat Gill

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

Margaret Stevenson and Raymond Scott

### SECOND COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections: This weekend, 13/14 February 2021 for Poor Parishes.

This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese.

Next weekend, 20/21 February 2021 is for the SVP

### RETREAT FOR LENT

Archbishop John and the Diocesan Spirituality Commission are offering a Retreat for Lent, which you can follow in your own home.

Using the link below, you can watch a short video reflection each week, download prayer materials and other resources to help you make the best use of whatever time and opportunity you may have during your week.

If you are looking for a way to deepen your life of prayer this Lent, click on <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme> where you can also sign up to receive materials directly to your email.

**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 on the website or phone Linda in the office on Monday, 15th Feb.

**Masses are 9.30am; 12 noon and 7.30pm**

## From Fr Anthony ...

On Wednesday we begin the season of Lent with the sprinkling of Ashes. For six weeks we journey to Easter. We can get so caught up in what we are giving up, or what we are going to add to our usual routine, that we lose sight of why we are doing this. What is this all for? These six weeks are our preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. For adults who are to be baptised at Easter these weeks are called a period of Purification and Enlightenment. As catechumens they enter a stage of prayer and reflection in preparation of their Baptism at Easter. We who are already baptised also have an opportunity of prayer and reflection to deepen our relationship with Jesus. We can consider finding opportunities to ask to be forgiven for our sinfulness; through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are given the grace to live our human lives in freedom and joy. Through prayer and fasting we focus on becoming the person that we were created to be. Our gaze moves from ourselves to the other. This is the reason there is a great emphasis on almsgiving. We look outwards to our neighbour. We discern ways in which we can reach out to help those who hunger and thirst. So our Lenten actions can be listed under three headings - Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Take these next few days to plan how you are going to live in these 40 days.

We need to keep it simple. Learning a little more about our faith, its traditions and the Holy Scripture it is founded on can help us strengthen and deepen our belief and understanding of what Jesus' death and resurrection means for us. I know that some parishioners are doing a course on the Gospels in Lent. I have signed up for the Diocesan Lent course. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter. You might decide to read a spiritual book for Lent such as Pope Francis Book "Let us to Dream". Denying ourselves things in our daily life makes us more open to the importance of the pain and suffering and death of Jesus that gave us new life. It is the path we are called follow. I will do my usual fast from some of my favourite things like coffee, Netflix's and TV. I know that some will abstain from social media which is a tough one. Actively doing charitable things whether it is giving of your time or money demonstrates that deeds as well as words are needed to live out the faith we have been given through Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us. CAFOD have a Lenten project concentrating on helping end water poverty and provide other vital support to communities throughout the world. If we begin Lent and make the extra effort to make our journey together something different and special, we will be able to truly experience the contrast of experiences given by the hope, joy and happiness of Easter, with those in our parish who are to be baptised and to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. We are an Easter people!

Here is the opening prayer for Ash Wednesday  
Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting  
this campaign of Christian service,  
so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils,  
we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.  
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.

**HCPT Grand Draw.** Thank you to everyone who sold and bought tickets. We raised £625 towards funds to take young people to Lourdes.

**SIX BIBLE STUDIES ON THE LENTEN SUNDAY GOSPELS**  
Six Wednesday evening Bible Study sessions, to break-open each Lenten Sunday Gospel. Experience Sunday Mass in a new way with Mauro Iannicelli. Sessions delivered with 'Expository Preaching' teaching method & with 'Life-Application' questions. Wed 17th Feb - Wed 24 Mar, 2021 | 7pm - 8:30pm (Free & Live sessions) Info & Registration: <https://comeandsee.org/lent>

**Silent Prayer on Zoom - led by John Renn, starting Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Open to all.**  
Thursdays at 7.30 to 8.15pm. A time of Silent Prayer followed, for those who wish, by a time of reflection and sharing. If you are interested please the Zoom Link is:  
More information on the Parish Website: go to Community and scroll down to Prayer Groups

**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.**

**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](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)) for a registration form and return it by the **18th of February 2021.** Children must be Year 3 or above.

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