

Date:	10th/11th February 2024		Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Colleen Baker	Felix Kobus	Tanya Baldwin	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Ros Comfort	Tanya Graham	Tom Horsfall	
9:30 AM	Richard Merchant	Ingrid Merchant	Domhnall MacCormac	Anne Ellis	Streeters
Date:	17th/18th February 2024		First Sunday of Lent		
Mass Time:	Acolyte	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayer of the Faithful	Music
Vigil: 5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Anne Maureen Scarff	Margaret Smith	No One
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Kim Crawford	Jim Gresser	Cecilia Hunt	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Steve Bishop	Peta Sparkes	Phillip Saville	Chris Wilson
	Celebrant: Fr Paul Slyney				

Kid's Corner

Gospel

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.

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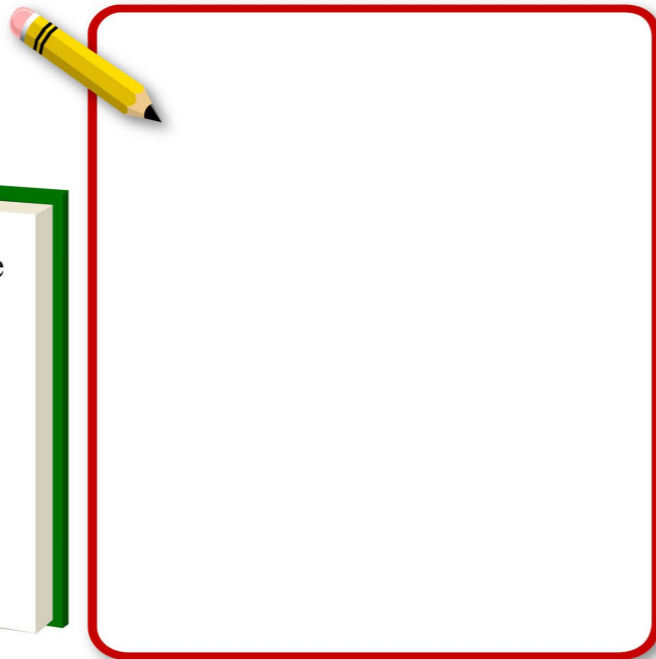
What did Jesus say to the man after he cured him of leprosy? Use the words below to find out!

Say _____ of this to anyone; but go and _____ yourself to the _____, then make an offering at the _____ as Moses _____, then all will know you are _____.



temple show
commanded
healed nothing

Jesus showed God's power by healing the leper. Draw a picture from one of the following stories where God's power is shown by what Jesus did.



St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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Parish Email: email: springwood@parracatholic.org
Parish Website: www.stachurchspringwood.org.au
Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Administrator: Rev Christopher del Rosario (E: christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org)
Parish Pastoral Council: Email suggestions to springwoodparishpc@gmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am
Weekday Mass: Monday - Saturday 9:30 am
Adoration: Monday - Saturday from 8:15am - 9:15am
First Friday Adoration: Starts from the 1st of March 2024 at 7pm
Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4-5 pm before the Vigil Mass
Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11 am and by appointment
Weddings: By appointment
Funerals: Please Contact the Parish Office



Support us!
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We respect the Darug people and their elders both past and present, as the traditional custodians of this land on which we celebrate the Eucharist.

Outside the Camp by Fr Joseph Bailham

At the theatre recently—one of the joys of living in London and being able to get last minute cheap tickets—before the play began, I looked up and around to take in the setting. Looking upwards to the circle above, as people took their seats, I noticed how steep the rows were and how easy it would be to trip, with only the tiniest of barriers preventing one from toppling from a great height. A small barrier, but one that—hopefully—would prevent irreparable harm to human life (both to the person tripping and anyone sitting below!).

Barriers and boundaries have their place. They are useful and sometimes even lifesaving, as with the barrier at the theatre. But there are, of course, barriers and boundaries that are much more questionable, perhaps even sinister in their seeking to divide and separate.

In the first reading today, the Lord gives strict instructions to Moses and Aaron when a suspected case of leprosy is detected. Leprosy in the Old Testament can mean other related skin diseases and conditions beyond what we know as leprosy now, and not just people can catch it: tents and clothing can also. Skin, tents, clothing: they are important barriers in their respective ways as they protect us.

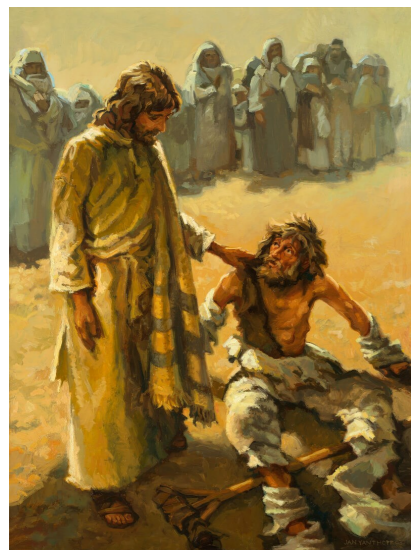
In the case of leprosy as we know it, it's obvious why someone ought to be kept apart from others from a medical point of view. But as we became all too accustomed to in years which—fortunately—seem a long time ago now, we know there are problems when separation and barriers are erected between people who are deemed contagious from those who are not. The life of one deemed leprous was miserable, not only from a medical point of view, but socially. There are clear benefits to having separation, but there are also clear negatives.

We are separated or differentiated from God in a number of ways: we are created, for one, whereas God is the Uncreated Creator. We differ from God as creatures who have a fallen nature, who morally fail—in small as well as big ways—whereas God is perfect and whose nature is pure and untainted. A clear boundary exists then between divine and fallen human nature.

There are many who are open to belief in a God somewhere out there, totally other and unknowable in any meaningful way. The barrier is clear and insurmountable. But this is categorically not the Christian view. In the Gospel today, Christ re-presents the event of the Incarnation in his encounter with the leprous man: the All-Pure and Perfect God reaches out and touches human nature with all its blemishes and breathes new life into it. The man with leprosy stands for all of us who, because of sin, are out on the margins, living 'outside the camp.' Our Lord makes the first and necessary move, meeting us where we are, and showing us another way. By this he gives us hope.

Despite this, there are many in the church who feel without hope, who feel out on the margins, outside the camp. We often see online the battle lines drawn between those seeking the purity of the camp, of indiscriminately protecting it from the contagion of error at all costs; and we also see those who hastily try to take down or move barriers under the banner of inclusivity. Barriers protect, but they can sometimes blind; pulling and moving barriers down can lead to inclusion, but they can sometimes expose one to longer-term confusion and even delusion.

So, what's the solution? Well, if you find yourself out on the margins, either individually or as part of a group, in one way or another, today's Gospel shows us: like the leper, fall on one's knees and turn to Jesus. Each and everyone of us must needs do this. It is he who remedies and brings life to where there is sickness and alienation. It is through his grace that we are converted and conformed to him who saves us. It is God alone who take us across that boundary from death to life but we must first seek and desire to be cured and healed. This is one barrier that we most certainly should overcome and thankfully are enabled to so by God, he who breached that barrier first.



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.

First Reading [Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46](#)

A reading from the book of Leviticus

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

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.'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11. R. v.7](#)

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

- 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.)
- 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.)
- 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

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

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.

Gospel Acclamation [Luke 7:16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 1:40-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

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.

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 77:29-30](#)

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

Or John 3:16

God so loved the world
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
so that all who believe in him may not perish,
but may have eternal life.



Recently Deceased: Catherine Howard (sister of Joan Noney)

Sick: Julie Somerville, Fr Bob Bossini, Dane San Pedro, Marama Watson, Margaret Munro, and all Private Intentions.
Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR PARISH AND ITS WORKS:

There are a variety of ways you can support our Parish and its Mission:

- **QR Code:** located on the Bulletin Front Page.
- **EFTPOS Machines:** located at the back of the Church.
- **Direct Debit:** Please contact the Parish Office for more details.
- **Direct Deposit:** Details are as follows:

Bank Account Name: Springwood

BSB: 067-950

Bank Account Number: 00000560

Reference: Your name in full.

All donations go to maintaining our Church and supporting the various ministries associated with our Parish.

CELEBRATE MORNING TEA WITH FR PAUL SLYNEY

You are invited to celebrate the 9:30am Mass and morning tea with Fr Paul on Sunday 18th February. It is a chance for you to say thank you for the twelve years of service and dedication to our parish. Please bring along a cake to share. We will have a fundraiser BBQ on the day!



STA LADIES FELLOWSHIP

meeting resumes on Friday 16th February after morning Mass at the STA Parish Centre. All welcome!

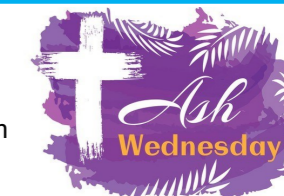
ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH CHOIR is currently looking for more singers, of ALL VOICE TYPES. Do you enjoy singing? So, if you enjoy singing and would like to join this happy group, we practice most Monday nights weekly in the church at 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood at 7.30pm to 9 pm. You will be made very welcome. We sing on the first Sunday of each month, with our first practice for 2024 commencing 12th February 2024. All music is supplied free.

St Augustine said: "... who sings prays twice". So come and join us in praising the Lord (twice). Enquiries Chris Wilson 0425 290 952 or Margaret Hickey 02 4751 2343 (*answering machine if unattended*).



"For those with faith, no evidence is necessary; for those without it, no evidence will suffice." - St Thomas Aquinas

ASH WEDNESDAY marks the start of Lent. STA Parish will celebrate two Masses on the 14th February: the usual 9:30am and an additional Mass at 7pm.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be celebrated each Friday at 6pm starting on the 16th February. Everybody is invited to join.

DO YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING OF ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE?

Become a SRE Teacher (CATECHIST) and you can:

- ✦ be a living witness of Christ and a witness of God's love
- ✦ faithfully hand on the teachings of Christ as handed on by the successors to the Apostles, our Bishops, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- ✦ adapt to the needs of students
- ✦ be available for a minimum 30 minutes each week during school terms for SRE lessons

The rewards of being a SRE Teacher:

- ✦ receiving quality training and professional development
- ✦ having the opportunity to deepen the gift of faith that has been given to you
- ✦ contributing to the development of your own parish
- ✦ sharing about the gift of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic faith with others

If you would like to register your interest, please email, or phone the parish office on springwood@parracatholic.org / 47541052 or Wilhelmina de Raadt on wilhelminaderaadt@gmail.com

PROJECT COMPASSION: Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations.** With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

