Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

If you wish you can make me clean

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46. He shall dwell apart making his abode outside the camp

Psalm 31: I turn to you Lord in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1. Do everything for the glory of God

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

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45 It was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.

Com. Verse: 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

Next Week: First Sunday of Lent: Genesis 9:8-15 1Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: In today’s reading we hear about how God heals people, be with us now as we ask the Father to open this community and give it the courage to ask for the healing that it needs.

Leader: We pray for Pope Francis and our Church (pause)

All: May we become more aware of the responsibility to go out to those at the margins of society.

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for our nation. (pause)

All: May we discover new ways to respond to the sufferings that cause people to flee from their homes.

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for men and women who work to heal minds and bodies. (pause)

All: May they experience and share God’s healing love with those in their care.

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for our 30 children preparing for their first Reconciliation and their parents (pause)

All: May they be open to exploring new ways of forgiveness and healing.

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for the dead, especially for Nancy Supple, Anne Davies’ mother.

All: May they rejoice the eternal happiness with God.

Celebrant: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for Pope Francis, wonderful healer, we ask you to hear these prayers that we make through your Son Jesus. Amen.

Our Pope Says: Pope Francis

“Make your heart firm. Through prayer, charity and humility before God, people receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference. The selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, one of the most urgent challenges we, as Christians, need to confront. When the people of God are converted to his love, they find answers to the questions that history continually raises. Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. The church, parish communities and lay people need regular reflection and interior renewal, lest we become indifferent and withdraw into ourselves.”

Please Pray For the sick: Les and Clare Fern, Margaret Schubert, Joe & Rosemary Valley, Br James Maher MSC; Josephine Di Lembo; Margaret Morrissey, Margaret McDonald, Margaret Heagney (Catherine Phillip’s mother) Loretta Grimster, Ray Mckirdy (Uncle Raelene Dawson), Mona Spain-Pedder, Arturo Bavato.
ual being healed. The cure has social implications. Broken

The story in the Gospel is more than an account of an individual. It was a restoration of humanity and dignity. Healing was not only physical but also social and spiritual. People who are used to sharing some kind of intimacy, at least touch, might not appreciate the power of that moment when Jesus touched the leper. There was no stepping back in disgust, but deliberately moving forward and “… stretched out his hands and touched him.” He touched the untouchable. People who are used to thinking forward and “… stretched out his hands and touched the leper. Jesus’ behaviour was not distorted by fear and superstition. It is not all that long ago that leprosy was still a reality here in the Northern Territory. As in Jesus’ time, these people were treated as outcasts from society. Today there may not be the same kind of ‘leprosy’ but there are still many in our community that we can tend to treat as outcasts. In Jesus’ time, anyone with a skin disease could have been considered to be a ‘leper’ – even the teenage with pimples and acne. And this is often the case with us as well, when we exclude people from our community basically because we are ignorant of who they really are.

In recent weeks, we heard how Jesus confronted evil and drove out demons to show that the reign of God overcomes evil. Last week, we had the healing of Simon Peter’s mother-in-law. Today’s Scriptures are an interesting reflection on ‘social acceptability.’ Our attention is focused on the uncomfortable truth of a God who simply does not work in ways we consider “proper.” In the Gospel, Jesus ‘stretched’ the rules and ‘stretched’ out his hand and touched the leper. Jesus’ action in showing compassion to an “outsider” and healing the leper puts him in conflict with the religious leaders and the Law. By touching the leper, he becomes a leper, banned from contact with people and having to stay outside the villages. By letting the prostitute or the woman “who had suffered from a bleeding for twelve years” touch him, he becomes the impure and unholy, and unable to enter the Temple. Jesus operates from a position of weakness and limitation, but he brings about a change of heart in people, not by doing great things, but by doing the small actions of great significance. He stands with people in their poverty and degradation. And just by doing that he challenges the structures that impose the oppression.}

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Living the Gospel: How to become a leper

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