



Gospel Mk 1:29-39

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

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.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The mother-in-law of Simon (Peter) was sick in bed with a raging fever. When Jesus learned about her distressed state, he 'took her by the hand and helped her up'. He broke the taboo about physical contact with a woman not his relative because he wanted to holistically heal her disease.

Simon's mother-in-law didn't need an aspirin and a cup of tea. She felt quarantined, isolated, and needed a hand reassuring her of sociable relationships. Jesus overcame her fever and her dis-ease with the world.

At every Mass we exchange a physical gesture at the greeting of Peace. This quite often overcomes being ill-at-ease with a family member or just with the neighbour in the pew. We need to take that symbolic action into the world. For somebody, it may be the most touching thing we ever do.

We could pause for a moment to identify that person who needs us to reach out, to take their hand and help them up.

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The Living Word

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

4 February 2024

First Reading Jb 7:1-4. 6-7

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing 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 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel

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 blessings.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

**He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering
Alleluia!**

OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
90 - 92 MONASH STREET, SUNSHINE 3020

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Website: www.pol.org.au/sunshine/Home.aspx

Office Hours: Monday, & Wednesday 10am-3.00pm; Friday 10am-4.00pm.

Sunday Masses: *English:* Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Mass in other languages: *Chin - Burmese* Sunday 2.30pm; *Tongan* TBC

Vietnamese Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7pm

Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am; Friday 11am; Tuesday 7.30pm

Confessions: Saturday 9.30am *English (Vietnamese: on 1st & 4th week)* **Novena:** Tuesday 8.00pm



MASS INTENTIONS 4- 10 February

Sat 5.30pm Meredith Glenda Bennett RIP

Sun 9.00am Filip & Mara Krsticevic RIP

10.30am *Pro Populo*

5.30pm Thanksgiving

Mon 9.00am Thanksgiving

Tues 7.30pm Healing

Wed 9.00am Halina RIP 1st Anniversary

Thurs 9.00am Parish Intention

Fri 11.00am Healing

Sat 9.00am Parish Intention

***"The Master is here and wants to see you."** John 11:28*

INVITATION to come and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament:

Each Friday 12pm -3.00pm
Come for just a short visit or for as long as you wish.



Anointing Mass
for the infirm & the elderly
& those who are seriously ill
29 February: 10am

DONATIONS

Please support our parish
Thank you!



Child Safety Reminders & Important Notice for Parents

- ♦ Please accompany your child if they need to leave the building.
 - ♦ Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.
- Our parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and the vulnerable.*

Week 2	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Mary Rapa	Andrea Borges	Tongan Choir	M. Boongaling
Extraordinary Ministers	Simplex & Blezza Borges	Sr. Shirani Britto	Jennifer Godfrey	Celine Rivera
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Tongan Choir	E. Boongaling
Weekly Counting	John Francis & Michael Payne			

Raised to Serve: Scott Hahn Reflects on the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Job 7:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 147:1-6; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

In today's First Reading, Job describes the futility of life before Christ.

His lament reminds us of the curse of toil and death placed upon Adam following his original sin. Men and women are like slaves seeking shade, unable to find rest. Their lives are like the wind that comes and goes.

But, as we sing in today's Psalm, He who created the stars promised to heal the broken-hearted and gather those lost in exile from Him. We see this promise fulfilled in today's Gospel.

Simon's mother-in-law is like Job's toiling, hopeless humanity. She is laid low by affliction but too weak to save herself.

But as God promised to take His chosen people by the hand, Jesus grasps her by the hand and helps her up. The word translated "help" is actually Greek for "raising up." The same verb is used when Jesus commands a dead girl to arise. It's used again to describe His own resurrection.

What Jesus has done for Simon's mother-in-law, He has done for all humanity—raised all of us who lay dead through our sins.

Notice all the words of totality and completeness in the Gospel. The whole town gathers; all the sick are brought to Him. He drives out demons in the whole of Galilee. Everyone is looking for Christ.

We too have found Him. By our baptism, He healed and raised us to live in His presence.

Like Simon's mother-in-law, there is only one way we can thank Him for the new life He has given us. We must rise to serve Him and His gospel.

Our lives must be our thanksgiving, as Paul describes in today's Second Reading. We must tell everyone the good news, the purpose for which Jesus has come—that others, too, may have a share in this salvation.



Vietnamese Lunar New Year Masses

OUR LADY'S - SUNSHINE : 9, 10 & 12 February: **7.00pm**; Sunday: **12.30pm**

OUR LADY'S - MAIDSTONE : 9, 10 & 12 February: 7.30pm; Sunday 11.30am

Ash Wednesday : 14 February: ***9.00am**

(*Parish Primary School Students attend)

6.00pm *English/Chin*, 7.30pm *Vietnamese*

***Opening of the School Year Mass :**

9am Monday 26 February 2024

Sacraments in 2024

First Confessions Thursday 2 May

First Communion Sunday 26 May

Confirmation Friday 2 August