

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 31)

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

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

LECTOR: 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.**

LECTOR: 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.**

LECTOR: Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just! O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. **R.**

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Or

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.

TODAY'S READINGS Lev 13: 1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1; Mark 1: 40-45

NEXT WEEK (1st Sunday of Lent Year B) Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 24; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1: 12-15

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Liberating the 'unclean'

14 February 2021 6th Sunday Year B

What is it to be reckoned unclean, untouchable? Some years ago my son was watching the old movie Ben Hur in which some lepers appeared, and he was shocked to see how they had to live. He'd heard about lepers but never realised if you had a skin condition you were cast out completely. This is the fate of the leper in today's gospel, who then does the unthinkable and throws himself down before Jesus, pleading to be cured – 'if you want to' – to be made clean, so he might be restored to society. 'Feeling sorry for him' Jesus reaches out and touches him saying, 'Of course I want to, be cured'. And he's freed.

The transmitting of infection becomes in Jesus' touch the transmitting of healing, of God's liberation. Come before him in faith and God happens. There follows a strict warning that he tell no one and immediately report to the priest, as the Mosaic law stipulates in the first reading. Despite this, the man proceeds to tell everyone his good news, so that Jesus now has to live as the leper once did, isolated, far from the towns he had frequented and had to retreat from, previously; but the news travels fast and people come to him from everywhere. Who do we reckon to be unclean,

untouchable? Who have we discarded, turned away from? It's only when we face into the truth of our lives that we can enter into this situation. As Jesus does here and at other liberating moments in the early

chapters of Mark's gospel; and it's what brings him finally to the cross, to the moment where he faces into the truth of all our lives, and frees us.

But what happens if we change two words in the gospel? If 'feeling sorry' becomes 'getting angry'. That's what it says in some of the early manuscripts, but it doesn't necessarily fit with our idea of Jesus. Is he angry at the leper for defying the law, or perhaps, less personally, at the demonic undoing of our lives? Either might make sense, though the second more so. However, what if he's angry at the likelihood of his being turned into a celebrity healer, whose healings excite the people and threaten to derail his mission?

Is this why he warned the man not to tell anyone and why he retreated from the towns previously? It's something we hear being spoken of throughout Mark's gospel, as when Peter insists on Jesus being a certain sort of Messiah – not one who dies on a cross – and Jesus says 'get behind me Satan', because it's the cross that will reveal him and God's love. If we insist on Jesus being a celebrity healer, we'll miss the truth of his life and our own.

Anger and sorrow meet in this gospel and through them we hear the call to act as he does, bringing us, at last, face to face with one another, before God.



Sacred Heart Parish

South Mount Druitt

Sunday Masses	Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil	6th SUNDAY of the YEAR
Weekday Masses	Sunday 7.30 am & 9.00am	14/2/2021: B
	Monday 9.00 am	Week 6 of Ordinary Time
	Tuesday 9.00 am	Week 6 of Ordinary Time
Ash-Wednesday	6.00am, 9.00am, 7.30pm then Rosary	
Lent Thursday	9.00 am	Days after Ash-Wednesday
Lent Friday	9.00 am & 7.00 pm	Days after AshWed.Stations
Lent Saturday	9.00 am	Days after Ash-Wednesday. Exposit'n?
Confessions	Saturday 10.30am,	12.00-1.00pm, 5.00-5.30pm
Parish Priest	Father C. Ashton	(Confessions after Mass: see Fr.)
Presbytery/Church	9 Ropes Creek Rd, Old Mt. Druitt	Ph: 9625-8847
Baptisms	By arrangement - Godparents must be Catholics.	
Weddings	Six Months Notice - Marriage Preparation Course	

Exposition of the BI Sacrament for 1/2hr. after 9.00am Mass & Rosary Sat'dy if enough

1st Reading: There are two chapters in Leviticus about Leprosy. This piece is how to recognise it and what are the consequences. It is read here as a comparison with Christ
2nd Reading: This is about meat offered to pagan idols and then sold in the markets. Can Christians eat it in good conscience. Paul says: yes, you can, but be sensitive to them

	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am
February 21	S. FERNANDEZ	A. WIGGINS	B. BUHAGIAR
1 st Sunday of Lent	M. FARQUHARSON	J. MENDES	H. CRUZ
February 28	L. VILLAPANA	A. WIGGINS	M. WONG
2 nd Sunday of Lent	W. FARQUHARSON	A. APAP	D. SANDAGA

PILGRIM STATUE of Our Lady will be at the home of the Gemzon family, 38A O'Brien St. 96754583 this week. You are welcome for a Rosary for the Parish each night at 7.00pm.

Fr. FABIOUS was a priest who came to our Parish from Uganda a couple of years ago. He came looking for help to run his poor Parish in **Fort Portal Uganda**. He has sent a request for help to build a toilet block for 600 school children in his Parish. I'll put out the Green Box !

GIVE LORD ETERNAL REST to the souls of all the faithful departed especially Alfred SCHEMBRI who died last month, Albert RODRIGUEZ, Milan & Stipan MILETIC, Ivica BIJAC, Nico SANDAGA, Aniceto ABAT, Matilda & Frank DEMENEZES, Moises CHUA, Patricia STRUTT, Adam PERRY, Henry DARES, Jajjo & Martha ALAMADE, Jack STASZAK, Dragan CUKAR, Dubravko PERIC, Maillyne GEMZON, Anthony LAVIS, James MASON, Allan SAMUELS, Francisco WAN, Joseph & Mark LEE, Apolena & Frantisek PAVLICEK, Leut Robert NAGEL, Leut Daniel O'CALLAGHAN, Douglas OELSCHLAGER, Michael MONTESEI, Joseph OGREN, John NAPOLITANO, Edward DAY, Carl MOLINARO, Pedro & Felomena MENDANIA, Melicio & Bernabela VERGARA, Wladyslaw & Zdzislaw CHELMINIAK, George & Juliette BASTAWROUS, Epifania & Mariano FUNELAS, Gerry & Brendan VAZ, Doreen & Arthur AUSTIN, Marie McLEOD, Macing & Luis PENALES, Erdulfo PENAFIEL, Cielo & Rey GARCIA. Let us be united in the Kingdom of Your Glory !

ASH-WEDNESDAY 2021 (A Day of Fast & Abstinence)
 From the 8th century, the ceremony of the Anointing with the Blessed Ashes on the heads of the Faithful has been practised to show our deep regret for our sins and our acceptance of the death that we must all pass through. The Ashes are also meant to show to the world our decision to do penance for our sins which caused His sufferings. It echoes the Bible's traditional practice of throwing dirt and ashes over the head and body to signify repentance before God. The 40 days of Lent, in imitation of Christ's 40 days in the desert, are to remind us to do penances during these days, and try to spiritually purify ourselves of our attachments to material things and pleasures so we can celebrate Easter with greater spiritual purity. There is no more appropriate way to seriously enter into the meaning and purpose of Lent than by the sincere reception of the Blessed Ashes. The Ashes stand for our desire to destroy our sinful nature (as ashes themselves are the result of a destruction), to purify it as fire purifies, to be more worthy of God, and to acknowledge that the body on which the Ashes are placed must one day itself return to ashes as the means of our release from this life and our entry into our destiny !

THE MASSES HERE ARE: 6.00am & 9.00am & 7.30pm

ASH-WEDNESDAY MASS: Entrance Antiphon: You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that You have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and You spare them for You are the Lord our God.

Response : Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Acel: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory! If today you hear His Voice, harden not your hearts. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless Glory

Communion Antiphon: He who ponders the Law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS is a good prayer we should offer **BUT we will need a volunteer?** Every Friday night of Lent, beginning next Friday, after 7.00pm Mass, we should go around the 14 Stations of Christ's last journey to the Cross. These Fridays of Lent should be deeply sacred to us. We could never have redeemed ourselves from our sins so Christ did it for us. To accompany Christ on this journey seems the least we can do each year since God doesn't require us to do the same ourselves, **nor did we do so last year** because of the "lockdown" !

Lent is to remind us of what we owe God, & the Stations remind us of what we owe Christ. These 6 Fridays focus on the purpose of Lent !

each Station: Verse: We adore You, O Christ, and praise You.

Response: Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

Between the Stations is recited:

O Jesus who for love of me, didst bear Thy Cross to Calvary;

In Thy sweet Mercy grant to me to suffer and to die with Thee.

ASH-WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY are 2 days of **Fast and Abstinence** (no meat meals) Those 18 yrs to 60 must fast unless ill. Those turned 14yrs till death must eat no meat **PALM SUNDAY** will fall on the 28th March. As did the ancient Jews on that first Palm Sunday you must bring a Palm/Olive branch to the Church that can be blessed & return to your home !

A FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting will be held next Sunday night in the Hall at 7.30pm