



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

St Bernadette's Church, West Ivanhoe

Mary Immaculate Church, Ivanhoe

Mother of God Church, East Ivanhoe

No. 8

18 – 19 February 2012

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: YEAR B

Reflection:



Given that Mark's Gospel was the first one in the New Testament to be written, today's extract could be the earliest evidence we have of intercessory prayer, or better still, intercessory action. The crowd around Jesus is so packed, that the friends of the man with paralysis get creative and, literally, go in over the top. There is no sense in today's Gospel of 'we shouldn't or, 'we can't'. There is only boldness in presenting the man before Jesus. Imagine if his friends didn't do this, he might never have known Jesus' healing touch.

There have been moments when we have all felt desperate. Sometimes when we are ill in mind, body or spirit, or worse still, when someone we love is in a similar state, we can have bloodied hands from banging on the doors of heaven, asking for God to do a miracle.

In today's Gospel Jesus heals the man dramatically presented before him by his friends. While the physical restitution was the most obvious, it would not have been the only part of the man Jesus healed that day. We can imagine the memories and other afflictions that would have accompanied the man's paralysis. There would have been emotional and spiritual restoration as well.

So to us. If, for all our efforts, our actions and prayers are not answered the way we would like, we can be left feeling abandoned and forgotten by God. It is not a cop out, however, to console ourselves with the thought that maybe what we are seeking is the wrong gift from God, either for ourselves or the one for whom we are praying. There are many types of paralysis, equally crippling, and not all of them are physically obvious.

Whatever of the matter of the request we place before Christ, today's story informs us about Jesus' attitude toward our suffering. Jesus initially tells the man 'Go, your sins are forgiven.' Later he says, 'Get up, pick up your mat and walk.' In first century Palestine, both statements were almost identical. To us, these statements are vastly different. In Jesus' time all illness was a curse from God because of sin. Jesus counters this belief by saying that no illness is from God, no suffering is sent to us because of sin.

How many of us need to hear this? After years of thinking our own paralysis has come about because God is punishing us, this Sunday we hear the Lord say, 'Get up, pick up your mat and walk.' This does not necessarily mean our problems will not need attention in the future. This side of death we are always unfinished creations, God's 'work in progress'. But we are reminded that it is always Christ's desire to make us well and whole on every level where we need healing and peace. We also see the power of friends who support and pray for us and lay our needs before God. What an act of unselfish love intercessory prayers and actions really are.

In this Eucharist may we leave behind the Christian heresy that holds that God uses spiritual, mental or physical pain to get even with us. In its place may we hold onto the image that whatever our paralysis might be, whatever our mat might look like, with the support of selfless friends we can rise up this Sunday and walk into freedom and new life.

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THE WORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

V. 1 Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak. The Lord will save him in the day of evil, will guard him, give him life, make him happy in the land & will not give him up to the will of his foes. **R.**

V. 2 The Lord will help him on his bed of pain, he will bring him back from sickness to health.

As for me, I said: 'Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul for I have sinned against you.' **R.**

V. 3 If you uphold me I shall be unharmed and set in your presence for evermore.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel from age to age. Amen. Amen. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember all in need of prayer at this time including Carmel Delaney, Joy Meacham, Sheila Ryan, Bev Horne, Sidney Delaney, Cathy Lengyel and Jill Brophy. We remember all who provide care and support for those in need.

We remember Antonin Schmidt, James Stuart and Mary McNamara who died recently. We also remember Maddie Williams, Anne and Thomas Talbot whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

St Bernadette's First Friday Devotions - Friday 2nd March:

Mass will be celebrated at **9.15am** and will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Devotions will conclude with Benediction at 4.00pm. All welcome to spend time in prayer with the Blessed Sacrament.

Stations of the Cross at St Bernadette's during Lent:

As part of the Lenten journey, there will be Stations of the Cross with Fr Thang at St Bernadette's at 7.00pm on each Friday evening in Lent. All parishioners are invited to attend.

This Week's Readings: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year B

Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25 Psalm 40:2-5, 13-14 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 Mark 2:1-12

Saint and Feast Days:

Mon 20 February: St Eleutherius

Wed 22 February: Ash Wednesday

Fri. 24 February: St Lucius

Tues 21 February: St Peter Damian

Thurs 23 February: St Polycarp

Sat. 25 February: St Ethelbert of Kent

Next Week's Readings: 1st Sunday of Lent: Year B

Genesis 9:8-15 Psalm 24:4-9 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15

HAPPENINGS ACROSS THE PARISH

Saturday 18 Feb	10.00am	Reconciliation	Mary Immaculate Church
Sunday 19 Feb	10.30am	Mass & Mother of God School Community	Mother of God Church
Tuesday 21 Feb	9.15am	Mass & Mother of God Middle School	Mother of God Church
Wednesday 22 Feb		Ash Wednesday	<i>See newsletter notice</i>
Friday 24 Feb	9.15am	Mass & St Bernadette's School Year 3	St Bernadette's Church
Friday 24 Feb	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross in Lent	St Bernadette's Church
Saturday 25 Feb	10.00am	Reconciliation	St Bernadette's Church
Sunday 26 Feb		1st Sunday of Lent	
Tuesday 28 Feb	6.60pm	Family Workshop for Reconciliation	Mother of God School
Wednesday 29 Feb	8.00pm	Pastoral Leadership Team Meeting	Parish Office
Thursday 1 March		World Day of Prayer	Mary Immaculate Church
Friday 2 March	9.15am	Mass & First Friday Devotions	St Bernadette's Church
Friday 2 March	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross in Lent	St Bernadette's Church
Saturday 25 Feb	10.00am	Reconciliation	Mary Immaculate Church

INFORMATION

40 Days for Life: 40 Days for Life is a focused, pro-life campaign consisting of forty days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil in respect to the end to the practice of abortion. We aim to have pray-ers outside the Fertility Clinic, 118 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne from 7.30am-7.30pm for each of these forty days from 22 February – 1 April 2012. John Forster, Communications Director 0431 894 529; www.40daysforlife.com/melb; www.40daysforlife.com; or Mary Stuart 9499 5134



Ash Wednesday Masses: Wednesday 22 February 2012:

Mary Immaculate: 9.15am
Mother of God: 7.30pm

St Bernadette's: 11.00am
Korean at St Bernadette's: 7.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES 2012 - CHANGES OF LOCATION:

Please note: As from Tuesday 3 January 2012, weekday Masses have changed locations:

TUESDAY: 9.15am at **MOTHER OF GOD**

FRIDAY: Mass 9.15am at **ST. BERNADETTE'S**

First Friday Masses: 9.15am at St. Bernadette's

Mother of God School – Sunday 19 February 2012: We welcome staff, students and families who are attending Mass at Mother of God Church this Sunday as part of the beginning of another school year. Mother of God Primary School will be open until 12.00pm to enable families to see its new facilities.

Fr Gerald O'Collins:

Thursday 15 March 8.00pm Mother of God Church, 56 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East

On Thursday 15th March Fr Gerald O'Collins, renowned theologian and author will provide share his years of study, writing and lecturing to help us answer the fundamental questions:

Did Jesus rise from the Dead?

Why does the Resurrection matter?

We are fortunate that Fr Gerry has agreed to help us explore and answer these questions. Fliers are available in each church to put on fridge doors, and pass on to friends and family. - Liturgy Group

World Day of Prayer:

This year, we, in the Ivanhoe area, will gather for the World Day of Prayer at Mary Immaculate Church on Friday, 2nd March at 10am. The prayer has been prepared by the Christian people of Malaysia, with the realistic and challenging theme - and universal prayer: "Let justice prevail".

Do mark this date in your diary now and join with fellow residents of Ivanhoe who worship in other Christian communities. Please note: This day is no longer the Women's World Day of Prayer. Everyone most welcome.

From Fr Paul Gurry:

Fr Paul Gurry celebrates his 70th Birthday on Saturday 3rd March and to share his joy, he invites friends to attend a Thanksgiving Eucharist on Sunday 4th March, at 10.30am at St. Peter's Church, 844 Centre Rd. East Bentleigh. Refreshments will be available afterwards.

Ryder Cheshire Morning Coffee & Tea:

On the **last Friday** of each month from February to November there will be a guest speaker, coffee, tea, cake and sandwiches from 10-11.30am at Ryder Cheshire, 14 Donaldson St, Ivanhoe. It is a great opportunity for a friendly gathering with chats and laughs, as well as supporting a local charity. All invited and all welcome.

Next gathering: **Friday 24th February** at 14 Donaldson St, Ivanhoe



Outreach Bus Trip to Lake Wendouree and Ballarat Gardens:

Bookings are now open for a bus excursion to the Ballarat Botanical gardens on March 21. We will depart at 9am from MI, stop for Morning Tea in Bacchus Marsh, enjoy a 2 course lunch in a hotel and visit the acclaimed WW2 POW Memorial as well as the beautiful gardens and Lake Wendouree all for \$42pp. Anticipated return is 5pm. Invite your friends as we need to find 45 people or the cost will rise. Bookings will close after the long

Sacraments 2012:

2012 Sacramental Brochures are available in each church for enrolment in Parish sacramental programs – Confirmation, Reconciliation or First Eucharist 2012. Enrolments are only accepted from families **who live within the parish which includes Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East, Ivanhoe West and Eaglemont.**

Please note: Only children **who do not attend** Parish schools or **who have transferred out** of Catholic Primary schools need to enrol in the Parish Program. *Previous enrolment at one of the three Ivanhoe Parish schools whilst living outside the parish does not guarantee enrolment in the sacramental program.*

It is recommended that preparation for sacraments takes place in the parish in which the catechist lives.

Enrolment forms available from Parish Office 9499 1515 and website: www.ivanhoecatholics.com

NB. Closing date is Friday 16 March 2012 - It is not always possible to accept late enrolments.

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION



Parish of Ivanhoe Playgroup: The Playgroup offers a welcoming and supportive environment where parents and children can play, learn and have fun together.

Ages: The playgroup suits children aged between 0- 4 years

Venue: Mary Immaculate Church Hall, 4 Waverley Ave. Ivanhoe

Session Times: Wednesday 9 - 11am. Enrolments available to join this group Thursday 9 - 11am. **Enrolments unavailable during Term 1, 2012**

Activities: Coordinated weekly art / craft activities, educational toys to explore, books, shared singing time, large sandpit and bikes for outdoor play and so much more.

For more details, please contact Liz Shearer: Phone 0411 345 664 or Email: liz.shearer1@gmail.com

An important Ivanhoe event recorded in Kairos:

Thanks to John Costa for sending an account, in word and picture of the installation of Fr. Thang (26.11.11) to Kairos. It appears in the 5-18 February issue of which there are still some copies in our churches.

Keeping in touch with children who are baptised into our faith community:

One way this is done, in the Archdiocese and beyond, is by a programme called Godstart, CatholicCare. We make use of the specially designed cards to greet the children on their birthdays until they turn 5 years and are starting school. Over the years, a number of people have hand-delivered the prepared cards, often giving an opportunity to renew acquaintance with the family. But people move, and age, and help is needed!! For each of the three areas of our parish, there would be around five per month. I really believe that this is a good thing to do and would love to talk to you about it. – Merle 9497 1691; email merlegilbo@hotmail.net.au

St Vincent de Paul Soup Van needs volunteers:

Many Yarra Deanery parishioners have helped out on the St Vincent de Paul Soup Van in Collingwood over the last 12 years. We need a few new recruits to work on the van in the evenings from about 6.30 to about 10pm. There are weekly and fortnightly roster positions available. We would also welcome a few more people to do bread pick-ups at about 6pm from Box Hill or Ivanhoe.

Many tertiary students find that working on the van fits in well with their social justice outlook. Quite a few have stayed with us for 5 years or more. The minimum age for volunteers is 18, but lots of retirees also get involved. Call Leo 9850 7097 for more information.

N.I.C.K. Foundation Players Annual Production - 2012's Show "A Wizard in Aus":

The N.I.C.K. Foundation Players warmly invite you to attend their 2012 production, "A Wizard in Aus", their third since the foundation's inception in 2009. The show which has been written by the cast, follows a young character named Max as he ventures around Australia where he meets some colourful characters. "A Wizard in Aus" is filled with energy, humour as well as many popular songs that you will be singing along to. Please come and support the N.I.C.K. Foundation as it supports our youth in developing belief and hope in their future. **Dates:** Friday 2nd March -7:30pm and Saturday 3rd March - 2:00pm & 7:30pm **Venue:** University of Melbourne - Union House Theatre **Tickets:** Adults:\$27, Children: \$12, Concession: \$18 & Family (2xAdults & 2xChildren): \$65. **Tickets:** www.trybooking.com/BBMY or visit website: www.nickfoundation.org.au

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND 25 – 26 February 2012

ST. BERNADETTE'S:

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

J. Murphy

Special Ministers

B. Jowett, E. Crawley

MARY IMMACULATE:

Sunday 9.00am

Leader

K. Bator

Reader

M. Auguste

Mass Coordinators

M. Gilbo

Counters

P. Black, P. Fanning

MOTHER OF GOD:

Sunday 10.30am

Sacristan

A. Patterson

Lector

A. Tosolini

Special Ministers

A. Pollard, G. Crawford, R. Matovinovic

Altar Society: P. Mendes

Choir Coordinator: J. O'Brien

First Collection – Thanksgiving: Envelopes: \$1,465.05 Loose cash: \$564.15 **Total: \$2,029.20**

Second Collection – Presbytery: **\$ 908.90**

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