

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behaviour of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honour. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honours the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

An Afternoon for Life

Bishop Stephen Robson invites you to join him in the fourth annual Afternoon For Life at the Pastoral Centre in Lawside Road on **Saturday 24th February at 12.45pm**. There will be informative talks from expert speakers who will address the abortion issue in light of moves towards decriminalisation – which means abortion up to birth for any reason. With legal change on the horizon it is imperative to be up to date with the latest debates. Tea and coffee will be provided during the afternoon and there are crèche places available. The Afternoon finishes around 4.30pm. To book a place please email mcgraw.clare@gmail.com

40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life will take place this Lent in Dundee at the East side pavement of the roundabout on Ninewells Avenue outside the entrance to the hospital. This is a peaceful prayer vigil praying for an end to abortion. The hours for the vigil are **Monday to Sunday 12-2; and Monday to Friday 5-7pm**. If you would like to sign up for a regular hour or just to let the organisers know you're coming please email: 40daysdundee@gmail.com

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11th February 2018

Next Sunday: First Sunday of Lent

Year B

Diocese of Dunkeld Charity Number SC001810

Parish Clergy

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Welcome to the Coastal Parishes of

St. Thomas', Arbroath;

St. Anne's, Carnoustie

and St. Bride's, Monifieth

Sunday Masses

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5 p.m. in St. Bride's

Mass at 10 a.m. in St. Anne's

Mass at 10.45 a.m. in St. Thomas'

Mass at 11.30 a.m. in St. Bride's

Sacrament of Reconciliation—this week

St. Thomas': Monday 6 to 6.30p.m.

St. Anne's: on request

St. Bride's: Saturday 4 to 4.30 p.m.

MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 12th February

St. Anne's: 9.30 a.m.; St. Bride's: 10.30 a.m.; St. Thomas': 7 p.m.

Tuesday 13th February

**St. Anne's: 9.30 a.m.; St. Thomas': 10 a.m. (Funeral Mass for Maureen Brown RIP);
St. Bride's: 10.30 a.m.**

**Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday—Day of Fasting and Abstinence
9.30 a.m. in St. Anne's 10 a.m. in St Thomas' Church (with school)**

11 a.m. in St Bride's 4.30 p.m. in St Bride's

7 p.m. in St Anne's 7 p.m. in St Thomas'

NO MASS IN ST. MARY'S THIS WEEK!

Thursday 15th February

St. Anne's: 9.30 a.m.; St. Thomas': 10 a.m.; St. Bride's: 10.30 a.m.

Friday 16th February

St. Anne's: 9.30 a.m.; St. Thomas': 10 a.m.; St. Bride's: 10.30 a.m.

Saturday 17th February

St. Bride's: 9.30 a.m.; St. Thomas': 10 a.m.

Please pray for those who are sick: Bishop Vincent Logan, Jane Higgins, George Hill, Eddie Lebida, Jessie Low, Kathleen Taylor, Susan Chalmers, Alison Oakes, Debbie McArthur, Baby Isobel McCaskey, George Kelbie, Cathie McLean, Ailsa McIntosh, James McDonald, John McKee, Laura Bennett, Robert Meikle, Cathie Walls, Duane Joseph, Father Luke Fong, Frank Osborne, Annie McCormack, Marie Fenton, William Docherty, Annie McKenzie, Helen Lukas, Joan and Mick Gartland, Janet Howie, Helen Blyth, Moira Fallone, Irene Burton, Rea Beattie, Norma McAra, Riley Johnston, Marion Jones, David Allardice, Adam Rennie, Margaret Spink, Tom Tait, Ina Stuart, Teresa Ritchie, Kim Scott, Gerard Lukas, Frances Toshney, Isabel Carroll, Peggy McGhee, Wendy Wilcox, Marjorie Robson (Bishop Stephen's mother), Vera Swifte, Craig and Kerry McFadyen, Father Jim McCrudden, Father Andrew Clark, Carine Hill, Bernard Colvin, Sister Marie Claver LSP, Brian Duncan.

those who have died recently: Maureen Brown, Betty McGinty, Jo Hoey

and those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Janet Tait, Cath Boyle, Frances Sreenan, William Ferrie, Alex Small, Helen Dunn, James Bain, Adam Forsyth, Jannie Esplin, James Dunn, Betty Smith, May Eddleston, Andrew McKay, William Pullen, George Cunningham, Eric Simpson, John Mitchell, Tom Sweeney, Christine Diamond, Elizabeth Mathers, Martin Chisholm Jnr, Clifford Paine, John Lewsley, Terence Grew, Michael Llewellyn, George Scott, Thomas Miskell, William Gibson, William Anderson, Lizzie Black.

Misia Paul writes: *It is my intention to have a few new hymns for Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil. It would be wonderful to have an energetic choir and group of musicians made up of past and new members to help lead the music and promote reflection. Depending on numbers I would have us singing in 2 or 3 parts.*

If you wish to take part please email me misiapaul@sky.com or call 01382 736616 with the following information:

Singers – ladies - are you a soprano or alto? Musicians – what instrument do you play? Are you a new member? Did you sing a psalm last year. If so, which one?

I propose having rehearsals on Mondays or Tuesdays or a mix. Which day/s suit?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE

Saturday 17th February: A Diocesan Lenten Retreat Day in the Lawside Convent Building and Chapel from 10.15am until 3.30pm. All welcome. Keynote talk by Bishop Stephen Robson: "Now is the favourable time: The Spirit led Jesus into the desert". Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch.

Saturday 3rd March: Preparing for the Easter Triduum: a day conference and celebration as Holy Week approaches, to be held at the Diocesan Centre, Lawside Road, from 10.15am until 3.30pm. Keynote address on The Spirituality of the Easter Triduum by Fr. Steven Mulholland. This day will be of particular benefit to readers, cantors, musicians, servers and all involved in the liturgies of the Easter Triduum. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch.

To register for either event please call 01382 225453 or email kevinjamesgolden@hotmail.com

For those unable to attend the Lenten Retreat Day in the Pastoral Centre, I am more than happy to have a Lenten Retreat Day for the three coastal parishes in St. Anne's on Saturday 10th March. More details soon.

Bishop's Pastoral Visit: This weekend we welcome Bishop Stephen back to our parishes, as he celebrates the Vigil Mass in St. Bride's and the 10.45 a.m. Mass in St. Thomas'.

St. Bride's Fairtrade Pancake Breakfast Will take place on **Sunday 4th March** after 11.30am Mass in the hall. **COME ON IN** is the theme for this year's Fairtrade fortnight. This year we are supporting the farmers and workers who grow our food, and all proceeds will go to SCIAF. Fairtrade has the power to change the world every day. It opens doors and helps people grow too. If anyone is willing to make pancakes for the event, please let Gillian Coyle, Eleanor Grieg or Mary Holligan know. Tickets will be available nearer the time.

St. Anne's 100 Club A reminder that Margaret Smyth will be collecting annual dues for the next couple of weeks.

Safeguarding Training: Any parishioner whose ministry involves working with children and vulnerable adults, and who has yet to complete the Level 1 Safeguarding Training, must do so as soon as possible, to enable them to continue performing their ministry. There are two possible sessions in Diocesan Centre on **Thursday 22nd February or Monday 26th February, both starting at 7pm**. For those who have completed Level 1 training, there will be sessions for Level 2, later in the year.

Many thanks for your continued generosity in the parishes. The offertory collections last Sunday were: £740 in Monifieth, £377 in Carnoustie and £350 in Arbroath.

The SCIAF Door Collection in St. Bride's last weekend raised **£553** Thank you for your generosity

There will be a special collection of Catholic Education next Sunday. This should have been taken up this Sunday, but I forgot to put it in last week's newsletter.

St Patrick's Night—Saturday 17 March Tickets are now on sale for this exciting social evening. Entertainment from the St. Bride's Folk Group. Tickets cost £7 (including buffet) and are available from Eddie Mahoney 01382 532007 or any member of the St. Bride's Social Group

The season of Lent begins this coming Wednesday, when we celebrate Ash Wednesday which is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence from meat. Mass times on front of the newsletter.

This Sunday you will receive your SCIAF Lenten pack. Once again the UK Government have pledged to double what is raised in the "Wee Boxes". SCIAF boxes are to be handed back by Holy Thursday.

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SCIAF Hunger Lunch in St. Thomas' on **Sunday 25th February**. Join us for soup and bread in the hall after Mass. There is no set price; please give what you can as a donation.

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Lent Extra which is published by the Redemptorist Fathers is on sale in the three churches. Cost £1.50

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Stations of the Cross: St. Bride's on Fridays at 6 pm

St. Anne's on Sundays 18th, 25th February, 4th and 11th March at 4pm

St. Thomas' 30 mins before weekday Mass