

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm
Monday to Friday: 10 am



Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem

Recently Deceased

Ray Murray. Cloverhill Estate.
May the light of heaven surround him always.



Catechesis on prayer - 22. The prayer with the Sacred Scripture - from Pope Francis

Part 1

Today I would like to focus on the prayer we can do beginning with a Bible passage. The words of Sacred Scripture were not written to remain imprisoned on papyrus, parchment or paper, but to be received by a person who prays, making them blossom in his or her heart. The Word of God goes to the heart. The Catechism affirms that: "prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture" — the Bible cannot be read like a novel — "so that a dialogue takes place between God and man" (n. 2653). This is where prayer leads you, because it is a dialogue with God. That Bible verse was written for me too, centuries and centuries ago, to bring me a word of God. It was written for each of us. This experience happens to all believers: a passage from Scripture, heard many times already, unexpectedly speaks to me one day, and enlightens a situation that I am living. But it is necessary that I be present on that day for that appointment with the Word. That I be there, listening to the Word.

Every day God passes and sows a seed in the soil of our lives. We do not know whether today he will find dry ground, brambles, or good soil that will make that seed grow (cf. Mk 4: 3-9). That they become for us the living Word of God depends on us, on our prayer, on the open heart with which we approach the Scriptures. God passes continually through Scripture. And here I return to what I said last week, to what Saint Augustine said: "I am afraid of God when he passes." Why is he afraid? That he will not listen to him. That he will not realize that he is the Lord.

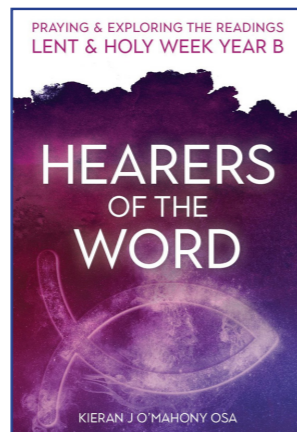
Welcome to St Michaels for Personal Prayer

To maximise the number of people that can join us for Personal Prayer, we have made a number of changes to the church so that we comply with HSE guidelines and keep everyone safe.

Please use only the bottom half of the church and exit from the left only, using the one-way system following the arrows.

We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit.

We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime
Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.



The new publication written for Lent in the series

Hearers of the Word

by Kieran O'Mahony OSA

Available now from Messenger Publications

www.messenger.ie

ASH WEDNESDAY 17th. FEBRUARY.

Due to the continuing Covid 19 restrictions Mass on Ash Wednesday will be "live streamed", unfortunately the distribution of Ashes will **NOT TAKE PLACE.** Ashes will be available in envelopes on the tables in the Church which parishioners can take home.



Moved with pity, He stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "Be clean." Mark 1:41

PARISH COLLECTIONS

We would like to thank parishioners who are continuing to donate to the parish collections. A special thanks to parishioners who donate through our website. Just hit the **DONATE** button and follow the links.

Thoughts

Ash Wednesday falls on the 17th of February, opening up the season of Lent.

The man in the Gospel is called a leper — not leprosy as we now know today but some kind of skin condition which entailed ritual impurity and suspension of social interaction. Given our current experience, we might have some sympathy for the man!

In Mark 1:40-45, the emphasis falls not so much on the condition itself but on the exclusion from and restoration to community membership — hence the repeated emphasis on cleansing rather than just healing. The story — interesting in itself — invites reading at different levels, as attempted in the notes and the Gospel exploration.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic. (1). Our faith is not virtual and is not something to be moved online, writes Bishop Tom Deenihan. (2) Jason Osborne: While mother and baby homes were a product of a cruel and unforgiving culture towards unmarried mothers, some women found compassion and kindness. (3). In a few minutes on Sunday, Pope delivers a mini-social encyclical (4) David Quinn: Archbishop Farrell should challenge current mood of anti-Catholicism.

Catholic Voice: (1) Saints for Times of Trouble - Where to turn during the pandemic and amid the stresses of life. (2) Awaken the sleeping giant - the powerful St. Joseph devotion Catholics need for modern times. (3) Fr. Dwight Longenecker; Archbishop Fulton Sheen's warning about counterfeit Catholicism.

Universe/Catholic Times. (1) The brutal realities of being a football manager (2). Ash Wednesday: Guided by St. Clare of Assisi. (3). Never a religious man but Christopher Plummer stole show when he played to the faithful. (4) Chinese aren't to blame — but the Communist party is. (5). New Archbishop of Dublin says Church future must involve change.

Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

Stay safe. Protect each other.

Continue to:



Wash
your hands well and often to avoid contamination.



Cover
your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue safely



Distance
yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell

Thought for the day

To us, leprosy or any serious skin condition is a medical and perhaps a cosmetic issue. In Jesus' day, by contrast, such things entailed social exclusion and sufferer became literally untouchable. Hence the shock in the Gospel: he touched him. Before congratulating ourselves for not being so "primitive," it might not be any harm to ask who are the marginalised and excluded in our own time and culture? The categories are wide: socio-economic groups, ethnicity, orientation, religion. Are there people I never encounter?

Prayer

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; Brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound. No race or creed can love exclude, if honoured be God's name; our common life embraces all whose Father is the same.

Taken from 'Where charity and love prevail'

Reflections

1. Jesus' compassion for people's suffering was an outstanding characteristic of his ministry. We see the healing power of God at work through him. Recall times when the compassion of others has had a healing effect on you. Remember also when your compassion towards someone in trouble brought them hope, healing or strength.

2. "If you choose, you can make me clean". Our choice is a key factor in how we affect others. We cannot choose to have no impact on the people in our lives. Even a choice to do nothing has an effect. When have you been particularly aware of the importance of your choice to be a positive influence on another?

3. The leper was not just cured from a physical disease, he was also readmitted to contact with the community. Perhaps you recall people who were once ostracised being brought back into family or community. Who was the Jesus person who helped this healing to take place?

4. The joy of the leper on being healed was such that he could not keep the good news to himself. Bring to mind occasions when you were so filled with good news that you could not keep it to yourself.

PRAYER

We come before you, O God, confident in Christ's victory over sickness and death. Heal us again from sin, which divides us, and from prejudice, which isolates us. Bring us to wholeness of life through the pardon you grant your people. This prayer we make through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.

DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE