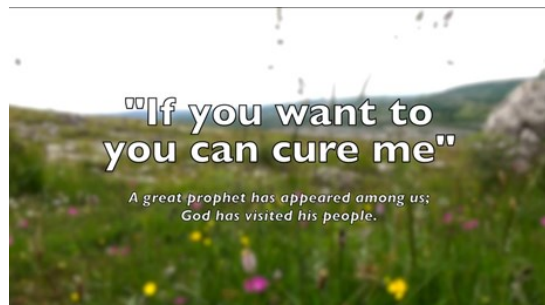


From Sunday's Gospel



One day a man who had leprosy came to Jesus because he wanted to be healed. The man knelt in front of Jesus and said, "If you want to, you can heal my leprosy." Jesus was filled with compassion and said, "Of course I want to." Then Jesus touched

the man and said, "Be healed!" At once the man's leprosy disappeared and he was healed. Before sending the man on his way Jesus said, "Don't tell anyone about this. Just go and show yourself to the priest, and take an offering to the Temple as commanded by Moses, and everyone will know you have been healed." But, instead, the man went and told everyone what had happened. This meant the Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay out in the country. Even so people would still come to him..

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2021 Adapted from Mark 1:40-45



Pope Francis writes, "The compassion of God, his suffering-with-us, gives meaning to our struggles and sufferings." Today's word is **Compassion**. To be compassionate is to share someone else's pain and suffering, to

feel sorrow for their situation and also to try and do something about it. St Vincent de Paul who has inspired so many people through Blessed Frederick Ozanam to work for the good of others wrote, **"We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion."** Men and women who are members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, put compassion into action through home visits and charitable works. We can help people to experience the compassion of God by being compassionate ourselves. We can demonstrate compassion in all sorts of small ways, particularly by reaching out to those who feel rejected or shunned like the Leper in today's Gospel. Jesus brought healing and acceptance to him.



Sacred Heart & St William

31 High Street

Uppermill OL3 6HS

www.sacredheartparish.org.uk

Please visit the website above.

For Daily Mass Readings, Video reflections and any updates go to Sunday Mass in the Newsletter

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 14th 2021 (Mark's Gospel)

PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED WHILE WE ARE IN LOCK-DOWN

Fr Bernard will celebrate Mass each day without a congregation. Please watch this space for further information.

The intentions are as follows:

Sunday: Clifford Jones

Monday: Michael Reynolds

Tuesday: Margaret Holmes

Ash Wednesday: People of the Parish **Fasting and Abstinence**

Thursday: Private Intention (MB)

Friday: Special Intention (DS)

Saturday: Denis Lynch

Sunday: Johanna & Michael Friedrich

Confessions by appointment

Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603

Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559

Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515

Mrs Michelle Moore



This Wednesday, 17th February, is **ASH WEDNESDAY** which is one of the two days in the year when we are asked to **Fast and Abstain** from eating meat. This year with the church being closed, parishioners, whose email contact address is known, have been sent via email a short **Service for Ash Wednesday** to celebrate at home. It would be marvellous if many families were able to take part so that as a parish we could mark the beginning of this special season of grace. There is the invitation to burn the

palms from previous years to make the ashes for use during the short service, but the service can also be celebrated without using ashes. If you do not have any palms from previous years, you can collect some from the table in the porch at the bottom of the stairs leading to the presbytery. Please simply follow the service. **In the gospel for Ash Wednesday** Jesus mentions almsgiving, prayer and fasting which are the three traditional practices for Lent. All three remind us that we are dependent on God and united with one another, even if we do not personally know the 'other'. This time of pandemic has raised many questions for all of us about what is really important in our lives. We have been restricted in many different ways, and things that we have taken for granted in the past, we can no longer take for granted.

Lent is often regarded by some people as a negative time with the emphasis on giving things up. Could we all try and make this Lent a POSITIVE experience by, for example, spending a little more time in prayer, being a little more aware of those who are suffering and sharing what we have with those who have so much less? Eating less might be seen as negative, but sharing what we save with others is certainly positive.

In the first full week of Lent, Monday 22nd February, we will be told by the Prime Minister how the Government hopes to plot a way out of the current restrictions. We could do a lot worse than pray that the Holy Spirit will guide those who have the unenviable task of making such decisions which will be crucial for the future well being of the country, and indeed of the world.



The Lent Course will be based on a new Cover to Cover booklet entitled "**The Prayers of Jesus**" which is available from Eden Books £5.97

Although the Group Meetings will be via Zoom, the booklet is suitable for individual home study for those unable to access Zoom.

Those who would like to be a part of this are asked to either –

- Order a copy for themselves from Eden Books at www.eden.co.uk
 - Contact Fr Bernard who will have a number of copies available
- Please let Fr Bernard know if you would like to be part of a discussion group beginning Thursday 25th February. **He will need your email address so that you can receive the Zoom link to take part in the discussions.** The 10 books have now been spoken for and 4 more have been ordered, two of which still available.



CAFOD Lent Family Fast on FRIDAY 26th February. As the church is currently closed it will be difficult to pick up Family Fast envelopes and so parishes have been asked to give details of ways parishioners can contribute to CAFOD if unable to collect and use the envelopes.

Donations can be made on line at cafod.org.uk/give

Via text **lent** to **70460** to donate £10.00

Post **CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB**

This Lent CAFOD invites you and the whole Catholic community of England and Wales to join the **Big Walk for Water virtual event**. Help give the boot to water poverty across the world by walking a 5 mile route on Saturday 20th February at 2.00pm. As we cannot organise any group; activities at this time it will be for individuals or families to choose a route on that day.

Could you *Walk for Water* as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10.000 steps, every day, for 40 days? Find out more at cafod.org.uk/walk



"The greatest of all poverty is to think that you have nothing to give and no way to receive the gifts of others." Richard Carter