

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

15th February 2009

THEME: Mark 1: 40-45

In today's Gospel we are presented with the compassion of Jesus toward the leper: one who was isolated from the community. We give thanks for the community around us and resolve to extend our welcome to others.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

CHRIST GIVES MEANING TO OUR SUFFERING

Christ will be the devil's ruin, and this is why Jesus always taught his disciples that in order to enter into his glory he must suffer much, he must be rejected, condemned and crucified, for suffering is an integral part of his mission.

Jesus suffered and died on the Cross for love. On close consideration, it was **in this way that he gave meaning to our suffering**, a meaning that many men and women of every age have understood and made their own, experiencing profound tranquillity even in the bitterness of harsh physical and moral trials...

Euthanasia is a false solution to the drama of suffering, **a solution unworthy of man**.

Indeed, the true response cannot be to put someone to death, however "kindly", but rather to witness to the love that helps people to face their pain and agony in a human way. We can be certain that no tear, neither of those who are suffering nor of those who are close to them, is lost before God.

The Virgin Mary kept her Son's secret in her maternal heart and shared in the painful hour of the passion and crucifixion, sustained by her hope in the Resurrection. Let us entrust to her the people who are suffering and those who work every day to support them, serving life in all of its phases: parents, health care workers, priests, religious, researchers, volunteers and many others. Let us pray for them all.

Excerpts, Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Reflection 21-02-2009

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Kath Robinson, Michelle Wallace (baby), Gary McLinden, Paul Trottman, Mary Hamilton, Lillian Roberts, Michael Rooney, Norm McLaurin, Kevin Hynes, Mihovil Katalinic, Vin Griffiths, Juanita Jervois, Norina Spinelli, Bishop Brennan, Nancy Gibson, John Hunt, Rob Deller, Mary McNamara, Ria Stumpe, James Williams, Joan Sullivan, Mary Cooper, Monette Fealy, Annette Hoffman, Lionel Jansen, John McManus, Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Luke Heffernan, Rosel Free, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, Ben Harper, Bess

Harris, Gregory Cummins, Patricia Bourke, Nicholas Hetherington, Joseph Doran, Effie Ray, Sandra Varrasso, Bob Woods and Marie Cook.

Grant eternal life to:

Barry Pigram, Les Webb, Judy, Greg & May McIver, Robert Paring, Kathleen Brown, Don Holt, Rubena (Ruby) Hanlon and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Molly Higgins, Arthur Scott, Eileen Ahern, Pauline Blissett and all our loved ones whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Lorraine Hill and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Recently we welcomed into God's Church the following newly baptised:

SONNY NUSSER

FOR YOUR DIARY

VICTORIAN DISASTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society has mounted an appeal to provide assistance to help the many families who have lost their homes, family members, friends and livelihoods in the recent bushfires. If you wish to donate to the appeal, please send donations to St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Inc., Victorian Disaster Appeal, Locked Bag 4800, Box Hill Vic 3128. (Please make cheques/money orders payable to the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Inc.)

QUEENSLAND FLOOD APPEAL

If anyone is wishing to contribute to the Queensland Flood Appeal to help the people devastated by recent flooding, please forward donations to the Catholic Diocesan Office, P O Box 6149 (272 Stanley Street), Townsville QLD 4810.

LENTEN HOME GROUPS

Please see the notice at the back of the church. If you are interested in joining a Lenten Home Discussion Group, please put your name and telephone number on list provided.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

This year our St Patrick's Day Concert will be held on Saturday 14th March at 7.30pm in St Patrick's hall. All new performances. More exciting news in next week's bulletin.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The next meeting of the Catholic Women's League will be held on Monday 16th February at 7.30pm in the presbytery. All women are invited to attend.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP, 18-35 YRS

St Patrick's holds a weekly discussion group for 18-35 year olds on Wednesday nights at 7.00pm in the upper room of St Patrick's hall. For more information, contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 or email mizmim@gmail.com, John Burton 0400 574 958 or Marcus Shaw 0418 463 952.

YOUTH GROUP (12-17YRS)

St Patrick's Youth Group meets after the 10.30am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. Contact Fr Brendan Lee: 6041 2588 or Miriam: 0400 419 981.

ST PATRICK'S PRAYER GROUP

St Patrick's Prayer Group will resume next Tuesday 17th February at 8.00pm. For more information please contact Kath Ryan on 6021 3821 or Maree Sobolewski on 6021 5433.

BHUTANESE FAMILIES ARRIVING IN ALBURY IN MARCH 2009

Since October, 14 families have arrived from Bhutan on the Humanitarian Program. Most have lived in refugee camps for 200 months. In March another 5 families will be arriving in Albury. If you are looking for an enjoyable challenge and have some spare time, we would love you to come and join our volunteer program. The Bhutanese people are very easy to settle and are truly delightful. If you have a family group or a group of friends that may be interested in supporting a family, please contact Deidre Moulden from St Vincent de Paul on (02) 6971 7175 or 0431 975 215. Deidre is based in Wagga Wagga but travels regularly to Albury.

ABORTION

Lead by Television, radio and press, many Australians have lost their moral compass and replaced it with a sexual revolution causing massive widespread marriage breakdown. Never before has there been such abusive criticism directed towards those who believe God's teaching that life begins at conception. ProLife Holy Hour 5.30-6.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month in St Patrick's church. This is the battle of our time. Good versus evil.

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS' CENACLE

The Cenacle is held each Saturday of the month at 10.30am in the old convent chapel, off St Patrick's Church yard in Albury. All parishioners are most welcome to attend.

CELEBRATE LOVE

Committed, intimate, joyful and passionate!

Presented in a Catholic context, this course from PMRC, grounded in the Theology of the Body, is open to couples of any faith. Celebrate Love is for newly married and 'very' married couples and is to be held in Wagga Wagga on 21st and 22nd March. For more information call (02) 9662 7272 or visit www.celebratelove.com.au