

LEPERS WERE AMONG THE MOST PITEOUS of people in ancient times. Although little was known then of the origin of the sickness, it was clearly known to be contagious and therefore greatly feared. The only solution was to isolate the victim and not allow him/her to approach other people.

The scene in today's gospel occurs during a longer passage which describes a Sabbath day in the public life of Jesus. It involves Jesus going to the synagogue, healing the sick and driving out evil spirits.

Jesus is filled with a deep sense of compassion for the man's plight. He then does something very significant: he physically touches the leper to indicate his compassion.

In doing so he rendered himself ritually unclean, opened himself to the risk of contagion but also expressed solidarity with the sick man.

But that is not the end of the story because the physical healing alone does not solve the man's problem. He has still to be reintegrated into the community. He now had to get an official endorsement of his being healed. He is told to go to the priests who will examine him and then pronounce him fit to re-enter society.

He is strongly warned by Jesus not to say anything to anyone about it. Jesus wanted no sensationalism. The healing was for the man's sake; it was not a publicity stunt to enhance Jesus' public image. He would not be ready until his full identity was recognised. That would only happen as he hung dying on the cross (Mark 15:39).

Indeed, how could the man refrain from telling everybody about his wonderful experience of coming in contact with the whole-making power of Jesus? He becomes an ardent evangeliser, a spreader of good news – something we are all called to be. It was no wonder that people went out into the deserted places looking for Jesus. But what were they looking for?

And we can ask ourselves today, what has our experience of knowing Jesus been like? How come we do not have the enthusiasm of this man? So much of our religious living is focused just on ourselves. It is perhaps worth noting that the man's experience was the result of having first been the victim of a terrible cross. It is often in our crosses that grace appears.

Sacred Space

OLIVERIAN

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

ADMINISTRATOR Fr Michael Kong
Pastoral Associate Marthese Temming
School Principal Delfina Pieri

Presbytery: 1 Landells Road, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 3015
email: pascoevale@cam.org.au
website: <https://stolivers.org.au/>

School: Landells Road, PO Box 667, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 5411
Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Sunday Mass

Saturday (vigil) 6pm
Sunday 8.45am & 10.30am.

Weekday Mass

Wednesday 9.15am
Thursday 6pm

You can register through the parish website <https://stolivers.org.au/>
& Click "Join Sunday Mass"

Reconciliation

Saturday 10.00am – 10.30am

Reconciliation is held outside at back of church between church and presbytery.

FROM ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 11AM: Live Streamed and C31 Televised (Channel 44 on Digital TV)

6AM: Channel 10 - "Mass for You at Home"

MONDAY - FRIDAY 1PM : Live Streamed. (*Link below*)

SATURDAY 8.00AM: Live Streamed. (*Link below*)

<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> and

<https://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb>

6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - 13/14 FEBRUARY 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Response to the 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!

Communion Antiphon: God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died:

Anniversaries: Adolfo Aguilar, Francesco & Maria Vittori Crea,
Luigi Archri, Concetta DeFazio, Francesco de Fazio,
Nina Tomassi-deFazio, Stuart Bailey, Pietro Ambesi

Those who are ill: Monica Wickerson, Joe Grech, Pasquale Buonomo,
Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy, Eileen Squires,
Lamberto Cruz, Vicenta Santos

Stage 4 Restriction from the Government

Dear Parishioners,

All masses and services between 13th and 17th of February 2021 are cancelled due to the Stage 4 Restriction from the Government.
I will celebrate Mass privately for those who were having Mass offerings at this time.

We will inform you of any new instruction in the future.

Fr. Michael Kong

We are looking for Lectors to read at 8.45am Mass on Sundays.
Please contact Parish Office during office hours for more information.
Ph. 93543015

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr Michael. The link:
<https://bit.ly/CDFpayPascoeVale>

We are very grateful for your support at this challenging time.

PROJECT COMPASSION boxes and envelopes will be made available
when church re-opens.

COVID19 INSTRUCTIONS

All participants must wear a face covering in church at all times, unless under 12 years of age or have a lawful reason not to. Contact recording is required. Please come 10 to 15 minutes before Mass. Doors will close when Mass starts.

At St Oliver's parish we aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment.

Privacy: In 2001 the Commonwealth and Victorian governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information collected from individuals. This Parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.

*Please visit our website for the newest update from the Archdiocese
regarding liturgical guidelines: <https://stolivers.org.au/>*