

**SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
11TH FEBRUARY 2018**

The leper in today's gospel reveals the complexity of suffering connected with his disease. The destructive power of leprosy effected not only the physical existence, but it deprived the sick person of human dignity.

Lepers didn't belong to society. They had no hope of receiving love, no hope of being accepted as persons, no pleasure of companionship. That denial was made in the name of God's Law.

It wasn't the end of misery associated with this disease; the sickness came to be seen as a divine punishment. The leper of today's Gospel had to deal with a physical suffering, social rejection, sense of guilt & God's punishment.

No wonder that he wanted to leave such a destructive circle of misery. It is interesting that he asked to be made clean, *not to be cured*. "If you choose, you can make me clean." Social and religious acceptability seemed to be more important than physical healing. Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean." The order of Jesus' actions is very important here; stretching out the hand & the touch came before the words, "Be made clean."

Firstly, Jesus broke the barriers created by the law. Recognition that the leper was a person was a very important part of healing. By touching the leper, Jesus said; although the law says you are unclean, for me you are clean, your human dignity hasn't been destroyed by sickness. Before being the healer, Jesus became a gate, which allowed the leper to reenter social life. I think that today's gospel once again reveals to us how much Christianity is concerned with respect for human dignity. There is always a danger or temptation to separate these two.

In the early nineties, the new Polish non-communist government recognized that there were many people with AIDS in Poland. In cooperation with the Church, the government decided to find a quiet place in a hospital where the AIDS patients could receive some treatment and also enjoy a normal life. The choice was made to build such a place in a neighbourhood of a village. The hospital was to be built some distance from the village. That project became a nightmare for the organizers. The residents of the village said "NO" to the idea. Interviews and negotiating meetings went on and on without any result.

90% of the residents of this village would go every Sunday to Church and would fight for their faith. However, in this particular situation the faith was just a Sunday ritual, their Sunday Eucharist didn't go out beyond the door of the Church. The villagers were not able to see in the future residents of the hospital the face of a human being struck by sickness.

The first Christians didn't have any churches, so they celebrated Eucharist in catacombs, which after the Eucharist became empty because everything was taken out. For a week the catacomb became an empty place.

I think that this image shows us that we are called to take the Eucharist out into our lives. If we take the Eucharist out of our Sunday celebration into our daily lives, then we become the sign of Christ presence in many places. And through us those who live without hope be accepted again into the God's family where all of us are brothers and sister and the children of the same Father.

Fr Jan

St. Joseph the Worker Church
44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Masses

7:00am & 8:30am

Weekday Masses

Monday & Wednesday
7:00am

**Gold Coast University
Hospital**

Friday 10:30am

Guardian Angels' Church

99 Scarborough St., Southport

Saturday Masses - 6:00pm

Sunday Masses

7:00am & 10:00am

Mass in Korean

Sunday 5:00pm

Weekday Mass

Friday 12:30pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:30pm to 5:15pm

Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive,
Ashmore

Sunday Masses

8:30am & 6:00pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 9:00am
Thursday 5:30pm

**1st Thursday of the Month
Holy Hour 4:15pm**

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

Parish email address
info@scp.org.au

Parish phone number
07 5510 2222

Parish fax number
07 5510 2244

Parish Website
www.scp.org.au

31 Edmund Rice Drive
Ashmore Qld 4214

**PO Box 216
Ashmore City 4214**

Parish Office

Leeanne Human
(Parish Manager)

Daloras Howes
(dalorash@scp.org.au)

Pastors

Fr. Jan Bialasiewicz
Fr. Van Huong Nguyen

**Sacramental
Coordinator**

Maria Blancia
MariaB@scp.org.au

Parish Schools

Aquinas College
Peter Hurley
(Principal)
07 5510 2888

Guardian Angels
Stephen Montgomery
(Principal)
07 5510 0055

De Paul Villa
Julie Madden
(Director of Aged Care)
07 5582 7250

**De Paul Manor
Estate**

Jessica Madden
(Manager)
07 5582 7999

Feasts and Saints of this Week

Sunday 11 Feb	Monday 12 Feb	Tuesday 13 Feb	Wednesday 14 Feb	Thursday 15 Feb	Friday 16 Feb	Saturday 17 Feb
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Feria	Feria	Ash Wednesday Day of Fast & Abstinence	After Ash Wednesday	Day of Penance	The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
Liturgy of the Word for Next Sunday: Genesis 9:8-15 1 Peter 3:18-22 - Mark 1:12-15						

In this weekend's Catholic Leader Fr Vince shares with us his experience of healing through the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) and how it has helped his priestly ministry in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. We encourage all parishioners to read this article that is published on the 11th of Feb 2018 . **page 28.**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. The practice of fasting was recommended by Christ, both by example and by teaching. Originally, fasting meant entire abstinence from food for whole or part of the fast day. **In current Catholic practice, fasting means having only one full meal a day.** Smaller quantities of food may be eaten at two other meals, but no food should be consumed at any other time during the day.

The present Church law took effect in 1966. The law of fasting applies to people from 18 to 59 years old. Everyone aged 14 years and older is bound by the law of abstinence from meat. The spirit of the law may invite us to extend the fast to things other than food – television or computer games, gambling or gossiping.

These age-old disciplines reflect our most fundamental concerns: our relationship with God (prayer), with our bodies (fasting) and with others (almsgiving). The purpose of fasting and abstinence is not to punish but to teach us a detachment from whatever may keep us from God. In addition, the practice helps us imitate the example of Jesus who fasted for 40 days in preparation for his ministry and provides a means of expressing our common repentance.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES, 14TH FEBRUARY 2018

Our Lenten journey towards Easter begins this Wednesday. In our Parish on this day there will be three Masses and the *Evening Prayer of the Church with the distribution of Ashes.*

7am St Joseph the Worker, Labrador
9am Mary Immaculate, Ashmore
12:30pm Guardian Angels, Southport

6pm Mary Immaculate Church
(Evening Prayer of the Church with the distribution of Ashes.)

THURSDAY, 15TH FEB. AT MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH

5pm Evening Prayer of the Church
5:30pm Mass

FRIDAY, 16TH FEB. AT ST JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH

6pm Evening Prayer of the Church
6:30pm Stations of the Cross

An important meeting for Ministers of Holy Communion and Sacristans who minister at Guardian Angels. **Please attend this one-off meeting on Saturday 24th February at 9.30am at Guardian Angels Church.** Thank you in advance Fr Jan.

Please note that the Caritas Australia event 'An Evening with Psyche Mae' on 13 February 2018 at 7pm at the Father Denis Power Building, 333 Given Terrace, Paddington has been **cancelled.** Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Lenten Program 2018 on 14th of February, with Ash Wednesday, we begin Lent. The Lenten program has a long tradition in our archdiocese and I am sure that this year again many parishioners will take part in this activity. To order enough books for the participants we need to know how many people are interested. If anyone would like to participate in the Lenten Program **please contact the Parish Office 5510 2222.** The cost of the booklets is \$8.

The monthly formation meeting of the Gold Coast Lay Carmelites will be held at **Surfers Paradise Parish Hospitality Centre, Clear Island Waters** at **10:30am Sunday, 18th February.** All are welcome especially those interested in maintaining the reality of *St Paul's Letter to the Galatians at Chapter 2:20.* Please bring a plate for a light shared-lunch and contact Norm Harding 0421 125 575 (ave.olmc@outlook.com) for any enquiries.

Retreat 'In Friendship with Jesus'. Prepare for your Lenten/Easter journey by choosing to come to know Jesus as a friend in every moment of your life, for the rest of your life. A guided retreat held over four weeks from **Monday 26th February to 26th March** including prayer in daily life and weekly gathering to share your experience in spiritual conversation. Gathering Times: **Mondays, 9.30am to 11.30am;** Location: **Mary Immaculate Church Meeting Room;** Facilitators: Lynne Head-Weir and Chris Kennedy (Spiritual Directors accredited by Faber Centre of Ignatian Spirituality); Cost: By way of a suggested donation of \$50. Register: Lynne 0409 198 545 or Chris 0412 270 828.

The World Day of Prayer service will be held in Mary Immaculate Church on **Friday, 2nd March at 9:30am.** The theme is "All God's creation is very good." The service has been prepared by the **Suriname World Day of Prayer Committee.** Morning Tea will be served after the service. All parishioners are invited to attend. With thanks from Carmel Donaghy.

Our next Youth Group will be Sunday 25th Feb. followed by a Youth Mass at Mary Immaculate 6pm. Youth Music Ministry for the mass will begin rehearsals in the coming weeks- please contact Catherine on 0466 512 811.



Chinese New Year is the most important holiday in China. In 2018, Chinese New Year begins on February 16th and marks the beginning of the **Year of the Dog.** Tied to the Chinese lunar calendar, the holiday was traditionally a time to honour household and heavenly deities as well as ancestors.



Today We Welcome Into God's Family

Fulton Francis Scanlan son of Michael and Marilyn Scanlan

Liam Tomas and Emily Mae Heanen children of Matthew and Charlotte Ann Heanen

Evelyn Faith Gillespie daughter of Jason and Matilda Gillespie

Dante Dos Santos son of Adam Santos and Jessica Sleep

Your Prayers Are Requested For Those In Need And Who Have Journeyed To The Father

Recently Deceased: Brian Muller, Vera Rayner

Anniversary: Jack Porrill, Sarah Maloney, Bob Jackson, Jessie Pittendrigh, Paul Hally

Sick and in Need: Terry Neal, Margaret Iringan, Melton Rounds, Rebecca Siganto, Letwina Malinga, Judy West, Theresa Birmingham, Patricia Fisher, Peter Selby, Sheryl Fleet, Patrick Sullivan, Teresita Adrid, Barbara Raymont, Orlean Subramanian, Michael Skinner, Lucio Dumas, Debbie Poulton, Stephanie Alijahn, Douglas Bateman, Robin Bourke, Christopher Browne, Jan Buttigieg, Matthew Byrne, Albert Chandler, Anne Chandler, Amado Dizon, Ely Deganos, Clare Dobozy, Bernadette Douwes, Narelle Dwyer, Patricia Ferguson, Candy Guillon, Patrick Guillon, Shirley Harris, Evelyn Martinac, Maureen McCabe, John Morgan, Mariel Nicdao, Maria Pal, Yvonne See, Angela Taylor, Mladen Topic, Joe Tuesley, David Walters, Harry Hunter, Victor Williams, Andrei James Celes, Mary Achilles, Bede Lawner, Semeon Illescas, Bruce Todd, Alma Spurdle

*Immaculate Heart of Mary we trust to your gentle care and intercessions
those we love and those who are sick or lonely or hurting.*

Help all of us Holy Mother to bear our burdens in this life until we share eternal life with God.

Sacraments - Calendar 2018

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS IN 2018

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is now closed. The next one will be in 2019.



THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN 2018 - The First Holy Communion Mass will be held at Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore on Sunday, 3rd June 2018. On this day there will be an additional Mass at 11am.

This programme is for the children who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2017.

The registration for the Sacrament of the First Holy Communion will be in Term 2, 16th of March 2018 and will close on Friday, the 20th of April. Registration forms must be returned or emailed back before the 20th of April (for a Registration Form, please email MariaB@scp.org.au or the forms can be collected at the Parish Office- Ashmore.

The Candidates for this Sacrament must be a Baptised Catholic, and **at least one parent must be a Baptised Catholic**. Those candidates who are unsure if they qualify, please contact our Parish Office on 5510 2222.

Baptismal Preparation Classes - Parents planning to baptise their children in our parish, note that the next Baptismal Preparation Classes will be held on Tuesday, 13th and 27th of February 2018 at 10:30am, in the Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore.

Marriage Preparation - For parishioners who are going to marry in the coming months, please contact Abas Supeli in order to obtain the **Marriage Preparation Course**. Contact by phone on: 0450 221 088 or email: asupeli@gmail.com as the Registered Facilitator for the Ministry of Marriage Preparation in the Southport Catholic Parish.

Next Faith Talk - At Guardian Angels this month will be on Tuesday, 27th of February at 6pm.



SCL Needs You - As a newly formed group, your Southport Christian League (SCL) aims to bring parishioners together on three levels with **social events**, **Christian ministries** and **learning classes**. Proposed examples of such activities are:

- Social - theatre outings, bus trips, trivia nights, etc.,
- Christian - prayer groups, bible studies, faith presentations, etc.
- Learning - book club, travel, computing, board games, etc.

If you are interested in participating as a member of any of the above activities, then you are wholeheartedly invited to join our league.

To become a member, you can:

- view our website and download a membership form from: <http://www.sclmember.com>.
- obtain a printed copy from the back of this church or from the Parish Office at Ashmore.
- contact Cathy Ryan by phone: **0438 824 395** or email: ceryan@bne.catholic.edu.au.

If you have a passion to lead any of these activities or want to suggest other possibilities, please contact John Wintour by email: winlock1@optusnet.com.au (while on holidays till early March).

The SCL would like to acknowledge the wonderful worked contributed by the Catholic Women's League to our parish over its years. Our objective is to build on its foundation and to then make it broader and more inclusive. The SCL operates to bring everyone together to enjoy Christian fun and learning under the banner, "**Growing Together With Christ**".

Please note that the SCL is a voluntary organisation that is open to all persons of all genders and backgrounds. While we are an initiative of your parish, we are not sponsored financially by the Southport Catholic Parish.

Guardian Angels Church Re-opens

every Wednesday, commencing on the 21st of February from 12noon till 1pm.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour,
to our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

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PENITENTIAL ACT

People:

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault
through my most grievous fault,
therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you
my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us
to everlasting life Amen.

Priest: **Lord have mercy**

People: **Lord have mercy**

Priest: **Christ have mercy**

People: **Christ have mercy**

Priest: **Lord have mercy**

People: **Lord have mercy**

GLORY TO GOD - Mass Shalom

Refrain:

***Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of
good will.***

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God,
almighty Father. **R**

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father,
You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us
You take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the
Father,
have mercy on us. **R**

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most High, Jesus
Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God
the Father. **R Amen**

GIFTS PROCESSION

Come As You Are

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits,
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away shamed and
disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the
virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
Why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear
you.

All will be well, just come as you are.
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MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (ICEL)

We proclaim your death O Lord, and
profess your Resurrection until you come
again.

COMMUNION PROCESSION

You are Mine

I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice,
I claim you as my choice,
Be still and know I am here.

I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light,
Come and rest in me.

Refrain:

***Do not be afraid, I am with you,
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.***

I am strength for all the despairing,
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see,
the lame will all run free,
And all will know my name. **R**

I am the Word that leads all to freedom.
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name,
embracing all your pain,
Stand up, now walk, and live! **R**

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A Touching Place

Christ's is the world in which we move.
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to
love,
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
and Christ is the one who meets us here.

Refrain:

***To the lost Christ shows his face;
To the unloved he gives his embrace;
To those who cry in pain or disgrace,
Christ makes, with his friends,
a touching place.***

Feel for the people we most avoid,
strange or bereaved or never employed;
Feel for the women, and feel for the men
who fear that their living is all in vain. **R**

Feel for the parents who've lost their child,
feel for the women whom men have defiled.
Feel for the baby for whom there's no
breast,
and feel for the weary who find no rest. **R**

Feel for the lives by life confused,
riddled with doubt, in loving abused;
Feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,
which longs to be pure but fears to begin. **R**
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RECESSIONAL

Immaculate Mary

Immaculate Mary, we praise God in you:
his power and his mercy,
his grace giv'n to you.

Refrain:

***Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria.
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria.***

Predestined for Christ by eternal decree,
God willed you both virgin and mother to be
R

To you by an angel, the Father made known
the grace of his Spirit, the gift of his Son. **R**
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