



FAITH IN FOCUS: FEELING SUPERIOR

It's become fashionable to compare the modern-day disease of AIDS and HIV with leprosy. They're not connected medically but they sometimes have the same effect on those who suffer with the illness: they become isolated, shunned and in some cases looked down upon.

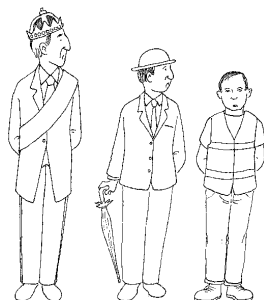
Certainly lepers were despised at the time of Jesus. They were not allowed to live in the towns or to mix with other people. They carried a bell or made some noise when approaching people so that everyone had a

chance to move away from them. They wore torn clothes and shielded their faces. And there was no way in which they were allowed to practise their religion like the rest of society. They were outcasts.

When St Mark reports the curing of the leper in the first chapter of his gospel there is much more at stake than a simple healing of an individual. Mark is anxious to point out from the start that there is no such thing as a no-go area for Jesus, since he has come to offer salvation to all, irrespective of who they are. There are no people who are beyond the pale, no sinners who have committed such sins that they cannot hope for forgiveness, no people who don't qualify for the promises of God. So as well as looking at what happened to the leper we also have to keep in mind the effect on the crowd that witnessed the miracle. They would have been shocked that Jesus had anything to do with a man whom their law said was untouchable. And they would have been confused that a religious man, a rabbi, seemed to be acting against what their religion had taught them.

Maybe today's gospel can teach us two things. The first is to ask ourselves whether we think that there are some people who are beyond forgiveness. Are there some crimes that merit permanent exclusion from society? Or maybe we are tempted to think that we ourselves have behaved in such a way that we do not deserve to have God bother about us any more?

And the second thing is to be honest about the way we view other people. Our society loves to have its lepers because it makes us feel superior. We're not like them. We're clean. Are there people that we feel superior to? And if so, why?



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH COLWYN BAY

01492-532670

www.catholicchurchcolwynbay.co.uk

Sunday 13th February 2011 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer for the Parish

O God our Father and Creator

Where two or more are gathered together in your name
you are there in their midst.

We bring to you our parish of St Joseph's to ask your blessing
as we meet the challenges of our mission of witness and discipleship.

Give us courage and enthusiasm.

Give us spirit of initiative and originality of thought.

Give us charity and unity

and make us aware of each other as we work towards the renewal of our
parish.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

St Joseph pray for us.

EXPOSITION, ROSARY AND QUIET PRAYER

Saturday 11-00am to 12-00noon

SATURDAY CONFESSIONS

11-00am to 11-30am

5-00pm to 5-30pm

SATURDAY MASS

5-30pm

SUNDAY MASSES

9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m.

Monday 12.00 noon Mass

Tuesday 7-30pm Mass

Wednesday and Thursday 9-30am Mass

Friday 12-00 noon Mass

PLEASE REMEMBER in your prayers all those who are sick, especially :

Basil Sanders, Mary Derrick, Peggy Porter, Edward Burke, Bridget McLaughlin, Fr Colm O'Riain OMI, Wendy Swinton, , Mary O'Leary, Fr Chris Dunne OMI, Eddie Mann, Neil Hogan, Mike Tobin, John Lyon, Rose Bostock., Drina Watts, Gay Merrick, Francis Shaw, William Richardson, Mary Bushell, Betty McCarthy, Peter Smith, Nancy Bowden, Anthony, Norman Graham, Josie Canning, Cathy Murphy, Eddie Hosker, Stacey Usher, Anne Boyle, Claire Carlson, Eva Rose Callaghan.

All whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Edna Hallam (2006), Margaret (Peggy) Hallahan (2007), Walter Doyle, Des Mulholland, Gerald Edwards, Claud Lee (1964), Norah Dillon (1994).

Recently Deceased

Mary Gartside, Ninian Davies, George Porter, John William George Seaman.
May Marron.

Last Week's Offertory Collection

Was

£819-91

(including £342-71 loose)

Catholic Education Sunday

There will be a second collection taking place over next weekend the 19th/ 20th February on behalf of the Catholic Education Service.

**REPOSITORY
SALE**

**All Calendars and Diaries are now at reduced prices.
The Repository is open after both the Saturday and Sunday Masses And also from 12-30pm till 1-00pm weekdays.**

S.P.U.C.

Little Feet Club
Next meeting 6-00pm
Thursday 24th February.

NOTICE BOARD

Information or notices for the parish notice board should be given to Sr Clare in advance

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Womens World Day of Prayer will be held at 2pm on Friday 4th March at Rhos Methodist Church, Rhos Road. This is the only World Day of Prayer held in our area. Please come and show your support.

WORD OF GOD

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: "If you want to" he said "you can cure me."
(Mark 1:40)

PARISH NEWS

Visits to the sick and hospital visits

If somebody is in hospital they will be visited by the hospital Chaplain. This is Fr Charles Ramsay for Glan Clwyd, Fr John Toole for Colwyn Bay and Fr Anthony Jones in Llandudno hospital. If you or a relative wish to see Fr Declan you need to let the office know and they will make an appointment.

Communication Group

Next meeting will be held on the 24th February. For more information please contact Simon Fuller on 01492 545540.

Will your child be either 3 or 4 years of age before 31st August 2011?

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is currently reviewing admission applications for entry in to school in September 2011.

If you would like your child to receive a Catholic education but your child does not already attend St Joseph's, please contact the school on 01492 532394 for an admission application form.

Pupils may attend St Joseph's Nursery part time from the September after their third birthday and Reception class full time from the September after their fourth birthday. If you would like to view the school prior to making a decision, please contact the school to make an appointment with the Headteacher Mrs S Williams.

The final date for applications to be considered this year is 28th February 2011.

Parish Pastoral Council

Next meeting Monday 21st February at 7-30pm in the Presbytery. Parishioners are welcome to attend and/or submit items for the agenda if they wish

Parish Finance Committee (PFC)

Next meeting Wednesday 23rd February at 7-30pm in the Presbytery. Please return all 'completed' Gift Aid and S/O forms by Sunday 20th February. Thank you again for your help at this time of Difficulty.

Giving stimulates the Soul!

Parish Social Committee

Next meeting Monday 28th February at 7-30pm in the Presbytery.

Sacrament of Reconciliation & Holy Communion

An information meeting will be held for the parents of children within the parish wishing to prepare to receive the Sacraments of reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 1st March at 6pm in St Joseph's School Hall.