



**St Mary Immaculate & St Patrick's
PARISH OF THE CLARENCE VALLEY**

Copmanhurst & Cowper



Grafton & South Grafton



Cowper

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Office Hours:
8.30am to 4.00pm Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri
9.30am to 4.00pm Thursday

St. Mary's Church, Grafton
Victoria Street, Grafton

St Patrick's Church
Skinner Street, South Grafton

Mary Immaculate Church
Cowper

St John of the Cross
Copmanhurst

McAuley Catholic College
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St Joseph's Primary School
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Parish Priest: Fr Joe Holloway
Assist. Priest:
Fr Emmanuel Okparanaku



Copmanhurst

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

14th February 2021

Parish Family News

Liberating the 'unclean'

What is it to be reckoned unclean, untouchable? Some years ago my son was watching the old movie Ben Hur in which some lepers appeared, and he was shocked to see how they had to live. He'd heard about lepers but never realised if you had a skin condition you were cast out completely. This is the fate of the leper in today's gospel, who then does the unthinkable and throws himself down before Jesus, pleading to be cured – 'if you want to' – to be made clean, so he might be restored to society. 'Feeling sorry for him' Jesus reaches out and touches him saying, 'Of course I want to, be cured.' And he's freed.

The transmitting of infection becomes in Jesus' touch the transmitting of healing, of God's liberation. Come before him in faith and God happens. There follows a strict warning that he tell no one and immediately report to the priest, as the Mosaic law stipulates in the first reading. Despite this, the man proceeds to tell everyone his good news, so that Jesus now has to live as the leper once did, isolated, far from the towns he had frequented and had to retreat from, previously; but the news travels fast and people come to him from everywhere.

Who do we reckon to be unclean, untouchable? Who have we discarded, turned away from? It's only when we face into the truth of our lives that we can enter into this situation. As Jesus does here and at other liberating moments in the early chapters of Mark's gospel; and it's what brings him finally to the cross, to the moment where he faces into the truth of all our lives, and frees us.

But what happens if we change two words in the gospel? If 'feeling sorry' becomes 'getting angry'. That's what it says in some of the early manuscripts, but it doesn't necessarily fit with our idea of Jesus. Is he angry at the leper for defying the law, or perhaps, less personally, at the demonic undoing of our lives? Either might make sense, though the second more so. However, what if he's angry at the likelihood of his being turned into a celebrity healer, whose healings excite the people and threaten to derail his mission?

Is this why he warned the man not to tell anyone and why he retreated from the towns previously? It's something we hear being spoken of throughout Mark's gospel, as when Peter insists on Jesus being a certain sort of Messiah – not one who dies on a cross – and Jesus says 'get behind me Satan', because it's the cross that will reveal him and God's love. If we insist on Jesus being a celebrity healer, we'll miss the truth of his life and our own.

Anger and sorrow meet in this gospel and through them we hear the call to act as he does, bringing us, at last, face to face with one another, before God.

Damian Coleridge © Majellan Media 2021

Television Free to Air—Channel Ten—Sunday Mass at 6am

For those who have access to the Internet: Bishop Greg—Mass at 8am Sunday—
Livestreamed on Lismore Diocese YouTube channel or follow the links at lismorediocese.org

Also the following has Mass on demand. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ

DIARY OF THE WEEK: LITURGIES, DEVOTIONS ETC

Saturday 13th February

**9.00am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton
5.00pm—5.45pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Church
6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**

Sunday 14th February - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton
8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper
9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton**

Monday 15th February

NO Mass

Tuesday 16th February

5.15pm Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Wednesday 17th February - Ash Wednesday

**9.15am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton
5.15pm Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**

Thursday 18th February

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Friday 19th February

**11.30am—11.55am Reconciliation and
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12.00noon Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**

Saturday 20th February

**9.00am Mass at St Patrick's Church Grafton
5.00pm—5.45pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Church
6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**

Sunday 21st February - First Sunday of Lent

**8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton
8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper
9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton
11.00am Mass at St John of the Cross Copmanhurst**

Bishop Greg's Lenten Talk Series continues!

This year's Lenten talks will focus on *Reflections on COVID-10*.

The talk will begin at 6pm in St Carthage's Cathedral on:

Tuesdays: 23 February, 2 March, 9 March & 16 March

It will not be live-streamed, but will be recorded and on YouTube by close of business on the following Thursdays. **All most welcome!**

Please remember in your prayers:

Those who are sick and frail:

especially Chris Small, Tony O'Connor, Peter Newby, Kathryn Martin, Evonne Coutis, Cletus Moran, Brian Haynes, Bev Reilley, Dan Moran, Cheryl Kinnane, Dot Dougherty, Sandy Beadman, Gwen Haynes, Michael Halligan, Sonya Moore, Maureen Endean, Moya Ellem(Melb), Fay Ellem, John McAnally, Darcy Patricks, Eli Hagar, Allan Ryan, Kevin Burns, Shona Owens, Sue Jackson, Jacinta Frawley-Werger, Amanda Crawford, Aileen Whalan, Bree Brossman, and all those in hospital.

The Recently Deceased:

including Roma Brotherson, Bishop Luc Matthys, Archbishop Philip Wilson, Barbara Deegan (Casino), Athol Arandale, John Reynolds, Cristita Bajan.

Those whose Anniversaries are at this time:

Including Fr Gus Parker, Aileen Reynolds, Loreto Demecillo, Tony Macdonald, Aub, Helen & Pat Gillespie, Grace Pidcock, Carmel & Kevin Handsaker, John Handsaker, Fr Brian Murphy, Gerard Reynolds, Damian Johnson, Mildred & Bill Rowe, Faustino B Demecillo, Monica Bentulan, Fr. Blitz Cavan S.J.

Other Mass Intentions: including all the Holy Souls.

Lent and Easter Octave Resource Book

Look to Jesus will nourish and nurture prayer each day during Lent and into the first week of Easter.

The daily reflections will invite the reader to contemplate a verse from the Scripture reading of the day. This reflection will be followed by a quote from Pope Francis and a simple prayer.

The daily reflections will only require a few minutes for a person to read, reflect and pray. This Lenten practice will lead the reader into a deeper reflection on their daily life. As they 'look to Jesus' - in their families, workplaces and the community - they will walk as 'missionary disciples' on the path to Easter, and beyond.

Donation to assist in covering the cost of the books can be placed on the second collection.



Project Compassion Sunday 14th February 2021



Please take home a Project Compassion set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "Be More". Through your generosity and by aspiring to be more, you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

You can donate through Parish envelopes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

MASS Attendance

Currently Dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligations continues.

As from Monday, 7 December 2020, restrictions which apply in Places of Worship have been lessened. Church services are determined by the 2 square metre distancing rule and even with this limitation, our churches can accommodate more than the usual congregation numbers prior to COVID-19 restrictions.

As we know there are certain directives that must be followed to enable us to come together and celebrate as a community, please familiarise yourselves with the following:

- ◆ Hand sanitising on arrival and departure
- ◆ Recording name and phone number on arrival
- ◆ Sit in allocated pews, 3 or 2 as indicated (*household may sit together*)
- ◆ 1.5m social distancing at all times on entering and leaving the church.
- ◆ Single file for receiving communion (on hand only) - observe social distancing.
- ◆ Government advice is that **congregational singing is not permitted**, and with the potential of more people in our churches, the government recommends that **members of the congregation wear masks** if they are over 12 years of age.

Anyone who is unwell or who have been in COVID-19 hotspots should not attend Mass.

Those most vulnerable to the virus include those people 70 years and over are reminded to carefully consider whether they should attend Sunday Masses at this time.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Those who are unable to attend Sunday Mass are encouraged to spend some time in prayer that might include reading the scriptures, joining in a screen Mass (details in this bulletin) or praying a rosary.

The Parish Bulletin is a single use product-please take it home.

Please keep praying for the end of this pandemic & keep safe.

McAuley Catholic College

Welcome to the latest edition of our Schoolzine eNewsletter! Visit the link below to view your newsletter:

<https://mcaulcgrafton.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=19>

Or View/Download a PDF copy from our Website.



9.15am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

5.15pm Mass at St Mary's Church

Lent begins on Wednesday 17th February

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence.

The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. (CCL97,1251-52)

Bishop Greg Homeming would like to invite Parishioners of the Diocese of Lismore to:

Jubilee Mass

In Celebration of

**Fifty years a priest
Twenty years a bishop
Most Revd Geoffrey Jarrett,
5th Bishop of Lismore**

*to be held at
St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore on
Monday, 22 February 2021 at 5.30pm*

Due to COVID number restrictions, bookings are essential. Please book directly with the Cathedral Office on 66260 200 or office@stcarthages.org.au.

Thank you!

Weekend Feb 20/21	St Mary's Church Saturday 6.00pm	St Mary's Church Sunday 8.00am	St Patrick's Church Sunday 9.30am	Mary Immaculate Sunday 8.00am
Commentator	Gail Ward	Mariah Hassett	Colleen Scurrah	Lesley McFarlane
Reader	Peter Gooley	Chiara Hassett	Jim O'Donohue	Marian Wright
Extraordinary Minister	Roz Houlahan	Mark Dougherty	Gary Scurrah	

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.

A reading from the book of Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46
As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 31

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

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted. O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**

But now I have acknowledged my sins, my guilt I did not hide. I said: "I will confess my offence to the Lord." And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. **R.**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just! O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10: 31–11: , 22-23

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1: 40-45

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees:

'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon:

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Next Week's Readings: (1st Sunday of Lent)

Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 24; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1: 12-15



All of us are responsible for the communications we make, for the information we share for the control that we can exert over fake news by exposing it.
All of us are to be witnesses f the truth.
#SaferInternetDay

Pope Francis - Pontifex 10/2/2021

Planned Giving

Planned Giving contributions may be made by electronic funds transfer. If you would like to make contributions by EFT, banking details are:

BSB: 062546 Account Number: 00800690

Name: Grafton Catholic Church.

In the details section please record: PG followed by your envelope number eg PG500.

Thank you for your continued support of the Parish.



Invest with peace of mind
www.dif.org.au

The Diocesan Investment Fund (DIF) is not subject to the provisions of the Corporations Act 2011 nor has it been examined or approved by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Deposits with the DIF are guaranteed by CDF, a company established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for this purpose. We welcome investments with the DIF rather than with a profit oriented commercial organisation as a conscious commitment by you to support the Charitable, Religious and Educational works of the Catholic Church. Neither the DIF nor the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Lismore are prudently supervised by the Australian Prudential regulation authority; contributions to the DIF do not obtain the benefit of the depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959; the DIF is designed for investors who wish to promote the charitable purposes of the DIF.

The DIF contributes to the printing of the weekly newsletter.