

**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.

**GLORIA**

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.

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.

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.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

O God, who teach us that you abide  
in hearts that are just and true,  
grant that we may be so fashioned by your  
grace  
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

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 leprosy: 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.

**PSALM**

Psalm 31

Response:

You are my refuge, O Lord;  
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.)

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians.

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!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our mind,  
so that we can see what hope his call holds  
for us.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.

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.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse and renew us  
and may it become for those who do your will  
the source of eternal reward.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that we may always long  
for that food by which we truly live.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Do not grieve over temptations you suffer.  
When the Lord intends to bestow a particular  
virtue on us, He often permits us first to be  
tempted by the opposite vice. Therefore, look  
upon every temptation as an invitation to  
grow in a particular virtue and promise God  
that you will be successful, if only you stand  
fast.

St Philip Neri

**THE WORD**

Fresco in the Baptistery of Parma, Italy of Jesus healing the ten lepers

**UNCLEAN! UNCLEAN!** (MARK 1:40-45)

In the Gospel tradition, there is one example of Jesus healing someone  
who is suffering from the condition known as leprosy.

The term covered a wide range of skin complaints from the wasting disease of that name  
to the relatively harmless (though unfortunate) condition of eczema. People with that  
illness found themselves excluded from normal life in society as others regarded them as  
a danger because of the infectious nature of their ailment. Illness was also often regarded  
as a punishment for sin, so such individuals were consigned to a kind of "living death",  
and to be cured of leprosy was seen as equivalent to being raised from the dead: it  
required God to act.

It is against this background that we might understand the story in today's Gospel. The  
afflicted person's request is a statement from Mark about Jesus' identity: the expression  
"if you want to" really means "if you have the power". The human aspect of Jesus is  
brought to the fore when he is shown as being deeply moved and physically touching  
the infected one in front of him, thus technically contracting the condition of ritual  
uncleanness himself. By doing so, Jesus does away with the barrier between what is holy  
and what is not. Jesus observes the teaching of the Holiness Code of the book of Leviticus  
by telling the cured person to fulfil the prescriptions of the Law. He imposes silence on  
him at the same time, an instruction which the man immediately disregards: we will find  
this pattern frequently in Mark's narrative. ■

**REFLECT**

There are some interesting paradoxes in today's Gospel episode. Mark implies that  
Jesus has divine power in that he can cure the person suffering from leprosy, but  
then tells us that Jesus is moved to the depths of his being by feeling compassion  
for him. Jesus tells the man to observe the stipulations of the Law of Moses, but he  
himself has no compunction in setting aside the strict rules in the same Law about  
avoiding contact with a person suffering from leprosy, to the extent of touching him  
with his hand. Jesus gives the healed man an instruction not to talk about what has  
happened, an order which he cheerfully ignores and so Jesus' fame rapidly spreads.

We find in this story the tension between the Law and the good of the individual person,  
which the evangelists often present through incidents which take place on the sabbath.  
Jesus sees the need of the person in front of him and responds to that, rather than  
simply imposing the letter of the Law. The purpose of the Law was to help people live  
close to God, but it could become a barrier, if people regarded it as an end in itself.

The Gospel presents us with standards which apply to the Church today. If we are overly  
concerned with the letter of the Law, we are in danger of forgetting what the Church is all  
about, namely to enable Jesus to touch people's lives. ■

**SAY**

Lord, we come to you  
seeking wholeness.  
(Carey Landry)

**LEARN**

The term "leprosy" covered all sorts of skin  
ailments, even less serious, non-infectious  
types.

The person suffering from leprosy was  
not only physically affected, but socially  
excluded from normal contact with others:  
they endured a kind of "living death".

The stories of Jesus healing physical illness  
are illustrations of the deeper healing of the  
whole person.

**DO**

There are organisations which help children  
who suffer from disfiguring ailments which  
prevent them from living a full, social life,  
just like the person suffering from leprosy  
in our Gospel reading. Consider sending a  
donation to support them.



# PARISH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

Seamoor Road, Westbourne BH4 9AE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Registered charity 246871

**NEWSLETTER 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Sixth Sunday of the Year (B)**

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The **Season of Lent** begins with Ash Wednesday this week. It may seem that, already this year, we have been through a six-week period of isolation and deprivation and may be hopeful of an easier time ahead. But Lent is not just about giving something up, or of identifying practically with those who, in constrained circumstances, have nothing to give up, or taking on some extra activity. Yes, it is about those things, but Lent is also an opportunity to reset our spiritual focus, to deepen our relationship with the Lord through prayer, reflection and reading. The pandemic has caused us all to think about priorities and perhaps this Lenten period can be used to help join up the dots, so to speak. For the time being, however, this will have to be without the benefit of ready access to the usual church liturgies and community support, but we remain, as ever, united in prayer with the Lord and with each other.

The figures for infection rates are heading downwards but still remain about ten times what they were in early October, so it remains essential that we all continue to take the greatest care at this time. Although the lockdown regulations do allow for communal acts of worship and for churches to be open, taking into account the overriding message to 'Stay at Home' and out of concern for the health and well-being of all concerned, the public celebration of mass at Our Lady Immaculate remains suspended. The church will also remain closed during the week but is open for individual visits on Sundays from 10.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

The 'church of home' is, once again, as important as ever and our prayers, though offered alone, are always in communion with and the through our Lord.

A directory of online masses has been provided by the Bishops' Conference and can be found at: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk).

Some things that might be helpful for Lent:

In addition to the usual CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day (see <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day> for details), CAFOD is also organising a Big Walk for Water virtual event on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February to create awareness of water poverty and to raise funds for those living in poverty around the world. Find out more at [Join the Big Walk for Water! | CAFOD](#)

Sr Hyacinthe of the Diocesan Department for Evangelisation will be leading a Lenten Retreat: 'Finding Hope in Scripture'. "Every Monday evening during Lent, for 6 weeks, we will discover aspects of the virtue of hope from 6 different Bible passages, so that we may grow in hope in these difficult times and find ways to share our hope with others. Our reflection will be followed by a time of live-streamed adoration and Compline with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph". To participate, register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtc-2grjkiGtU8vPFJea2ktvR5U0MZ1mrl>

The Mill Hill Missionaries (red box Missio) are also hosting a series of Lenten Reflections on each Friday of Lent at 10.30 on Zoom. Each session will last about twenty minutes. To register, or for more information, email [redbox@missio.org.uk](mailto:redbox@missio.org.uk) or call 020 7821 9755.

## Liturgical Calendar

Fr Andrew continues to say mass privately in the church. To request mass intentions, please email or phone the Parish Office or leave an envelope at the church.

Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Sixth Sunday of the Year (B)	People of the Parish
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	of the day	-
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	of the day	-
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	-
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	of the day	-
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	of the day	-
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	of the day	-
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	First Sunday of Lent (B)	People of the Parish

**Prayer Corner:** Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially: Patricia Kowalewska, Win Sheridan, Patricia Plumb, Kathleen Wood, Peter Henry, Phillip Rockford, Germaine McAulay, Geoffrey Dixon, and Joe Bonnici.

**Finance.** A 'Thank you' to those who are using the 'Donate' button on the website. The 'Donate' button has the facility of adding a reference and also the option to Gift Aid any donation. Any donation with no specific reference will be treated as ordinary offertory. The parish's bank details are set out below for those who may wish to take out a standing order or make a bank transfer.

Bank: Lloyds                      Account Name: PRCDTR Bournemouth Our Lady Immaculate  
Sort Code: 30-93-04              Account Number: 00875075