



In the section of Mark's Gospel, we read for today, we find the description of a typical Sabbath day in the ministry of Jesus. Having attended the synagogue service, Jesus exorcised a demon and eased the fever of Simon's mother-in-law. After sundown of that same day, he "cured many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons." Whether the people whom Jesus healed were really possessed by the devil or not, they were mentally disturbed, and they were fully healed. Jesus worked miracles as signs that God's healing love was at work in the world. His disciples were excited at seeing their master becoming a local hero and attracting huge crowds, like John the Baptist. They felt that this would increase their reputation and prosperity. So, when they found Jesus the next day, very early in the morning, at prayer in a deserted place, they suggested that he return to the place where he had been so successful. Jesus' answer, "Let us move on to the neighbouring villages, so that I may proclaim the Good News there also," shows that his mission had an entirely different objective from the one his disciples expected.

Jesus had no interest in being the centre of attraction, of being popular, or of being "successful." He simply wanted to be where he could tend to the needs of the people to whom he had come in order to bring spiritual salvation and blessing to them and to all people. That is why, for the remaining two years of his life, Jesus went from town to town preaching the Kingdom of God. Traveling to neighbouring villages and throughout the whole of Galilee (and beyond), Jesus remained continually on the move so that everyone could benefit from his saving words and works. He used his energies to bring healing and wholeness into the lives of the people. Jesus' purpose was to teach, to serve, to give, and to share. Since nobody can be saved who has not first believed, it is the first task of priests, as co-workers of the bishops, to preach the Gospel of God to all men. In the Church of God, all of us should listen devoutly to the preaching of the Gospel, and we all should feel a responsibility to spread the Gospel by our words and actions. It is the responsibility of the hierarchy of the Church to teach the Gospel authentically--on the authority of Christ. By leaving the relative safety and security of Capernaum and going to other towns and villages, Jesus risked opposition and even death. It is precisely by going beyond what people expected of him that Jesus accomplished his saving mission. If, as Christ's disciples, we are tempted to use only a part of our gifts, we may hesitate to take risks for Christ, lest this create problems for us. Jesus shows us that we reach perfection only by allowing the element of risk into our lives.

**Please pray for our sick and housebound and for those who care for them:**

Peter Johnston, David Coia, Peter Mullen, Patricia McCormack, Kathleen Paterson, Alan Robinson, Ian Kennedy, Mary Maxwell, Andrea Tierney, Margaret Rennie, Paul di Ciacca, Elaine Hoolihan, Lucy O'Hara, Mary Queen, Alison McGoff, Peter Creeron, Margaret Totterdell, Betty Carrol, Colin, Nan & Anthony Clarke, John Mulholland, Alan Johnston, Angela Patrick, Baby Levi Paretson, Baby Stephen Hawley, Catriona Glen, Betty Mullen, Sara Miller.

**Recently Dead:** Bill McNally, Alfie Hanie, Agnes Glason, Joseph Gordon, Eva Kale.

**Anniversaries/Months Minds:** Bernard Murray, Alice Curley, Frank & Francesca Viola, Louisa & Jimmy McLaughlin Cecila McLachan, Isabel & Pat McInerney, Ellen & Samuel Dickson.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## ST BRIDE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER



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11<sup>th</sup> February 2018 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

**REGULAR MASS TIMES:**

Monday – Friday: 9.30am

Saturday: 9.30am & 5.30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 10.00am, 12noon, 6.00pm

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Mon – Fri: Before Morning Mass

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: After 9.30am Mass  
& after Vigil Mass

**ROSARY**

Monday – Saturday: 9.00am

Sunday: Before 10am Mass



.ST BRIDE'S IS A FAIRTRADE PARISH



**Today (Our Lady of Lourdes) is world day of prayer for the sick.**

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and is a day of Solemn Public Penance when we are obliged under pain of serious sin to observe the ancient custom of fast and abstinence. It is the symbolic turning to God at the beginning of Lent and the start of our warfare with sin and the restoration of life in grace.

A plenary indulgence is available for all those who devoutly make the Stations of the Cross.

Lenten Devotions: Public Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season after morning mass on Tuesday & Friday mornings.

**MASS TIMES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY:**

7.30am, 9.30am and 7.30pm