

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.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

THE 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.

OPENING PRAYER

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,

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps. 31:1-2.5.11*

R. You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. 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)**

2. 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)**

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

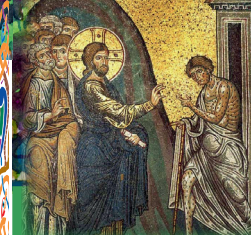
GOSPEL *Mark 1:40-45*

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.

NICENE CREED

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,



focus on sunday

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 11th February 2024

World Day of the Sick
Day of Prayer for Temperance

When Jesus cured the leper he was restored back to health and to his family and friends. By being renewed with the body and blood of Christ at this Mass we are strengthened and restored to God's family.



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 for following 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

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.



The mention of leprosy in scripture awakens thoughts of illness and isolation and the hope of healing and "re-belonging". The mention of TB in our own recent history produces similar thoughts. Sanatorium campuses were developed at Peamount and Blanchardstown on the outskirts of Dublin and Merlin Park on the outskirts of Galway city. These hospitals offered respiratory care in airy wards to patients who had to spend time away from their families.

What a coincidence that we are hearing these themes of healing and "re-belonging" on this Temperance Sunday and also on this World Day of the Sick. A Sunday for Temperance is marked every year on the weekend just before Lent while a day of Prayer for the Sick is observed every year on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes! These two events merge today and blend beautifully with our scripture texts.

For 125 years, Pioneers have been praying every day for people who have been impacted and isolated by addiction. The need is still great as we see the amount of people who are waiting on a place in a Treatment centre. These people from all walks of life need our prayers as they entrust themselves to the Lord for His healing or to a Higher Power.

If you would like to learn more about spiritual support which Pioneers offer, visit www.pioneerassociation.org

Fr Robert McCabe

Central Spiritual Director - Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacret Heart