

PARISH OF ST GEORGE

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: FATHER THADDEUS OPARA

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

04 FEBRUARY 2024

Readings:

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; I Cor 9:16-19, 22-23;

Mk 1:29-39

Scripture Lessons:

While the Gospel presents Jesus enthusiastically living out his Sabbath day of preaching and healing ministry, the first reading details Job's frustrations in striking contrast: Job complains of the tedium and futility of life and the miseries of human existence. But eventually, his eyes opened by God, Job surrenders himself, his suffering, his work and everything he had had and lost to God's greater wisdom (Job 42:1-6).

Job's miseries also marked the condition of the people who came to Jesus for healing. Jesus overturns the human condition, bringing hope and healing – then and now.

The second reading reveals Paul to us as a true, dynamic follower of Jesus, moved as Jesus was by concern for the lost which led him to preach the Gospel without cost to the people, and to serve them as their slave with Jesus' love and fidelity.

Pointing out the spontaneous response of Peter's mother-in-law after she had been healed by Jesus, today's Gospel teaches us that true discipleship means giving selfless, loving service to others. Mark shows us a typical Sabbath day in Jesus' ministry: taking part in the synagogue worship, teaching with authority, healing Simon's mother-in-law and, curing "many who were sick with various diseases, and [driving] out many demons" – a full day and evening of selfless ministry. Yet, Jesus rises early the next morning and goes off "to a deserted place" to pray, in order to assess his work before God his Father and to recharge his spiritual batteries.

Life messages:

1) We need to be instruments for Jesus' healing work. Bringing healing and wholeness is Jesus' ministry even today. We all need healing for our minds, our memories, and our broken relationships, and now Jesus is also using counselors, doctors, friends, or even strangers in his healing ministry. Let us ask for the ordinary healing we need in our own lives. When we are healed, let us not forget to thank Jesus for his goodness, mercy, and compassion by turning to serve others. Our own healing process is completed only when we are ready to help others in their needs and to focus on things outside ourselves.

The Holy Family Prayer



JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.
Amen

ANIMA CHRISTI:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
 Body of Christ, save me.
 Blood of Christ, embolden me.
 Water from the side of Christ, Wash me.
 Passion of Christ, Strengthen me.
 O Good Jesus, hear me.
 Within your wounds hide me.

Permit me not to be separated from you.
 From the wicked foe, defend me.
 At the hour of my death, call me and bid me come to you.
 That with your saints I may praise you
 For ever and ever.
 Amen



MASS TIMES FOR THIS COMING WEEK

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| Saturday 03 February St Blaise, bishop & martyr St Ansgar (Oscar), bishop <i>Lord, teach me your statutes.</i> | 6:30pm | Souls in Purgatory |
| Sunday 04 February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Praise the Lord who heals the broken hearted.</i> | 9:30am 11:00am | Edwina O'Connor Sophie Greig |
| Monday 05 February St Agatha, virgin and martyr <i>Go up, Lord, to the place of Your rest!</i> | No Mass | ----- |
| Tuesday 06 February Ss Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs <i>How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.</i> | No Mass | ----- |
| Wednesday 07 February St Mel, bishop <i>The just man's mouth utters wisdom.</i> | No Mass | ----- |
| Thursday 08 February St Jerome Emiliani, priest St Josephine Bakhita, virgin International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking <i>Happy are those who observe justice.</i> | No Mass | ----- |
| Friday 09 February St Teilo, bishop <i>He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.</i> | No Mass | ----- |
| Saturday 10 February St Scholastica, virgin <i>O Lord, remember me out of the love you have for your people.</i> | 6:30pm | Souls in Purgatory |
| Sunday 11 February SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME World day of the Sick Day of Prayer for Temperance <i>You are my refuge, O Lord</i> | 9:30am 11:00am | Richard Pettifor Matthew Pettifor |

Announcements

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family.

Retirement Collection:

There will be a second collection next Sunday for the Priest retirement fund.

Mass in Malpas

There will be mass in Malpas next Sunday - 11th February '24

Ash Wednesday will be next week 14th February '24 -

The beginning of Lent

Whitchurch Foodbank:

Since the start of the New Year, the work of the Foodbank has continued to help people who are suffering from food poverty and are experiencing crisis in their lives. It continues to be grateful for the help and support it receives from our community. With it's collection points in the town's supermarkets and churches, it able to ensure that those in need are supported.

Weekly Collection:

We wish to thank you for your ongoing generosity in the upkeep of the parish.

Offering for last week- to be advised.

Confession is before or after Mass or at any convenient time you want. Arrange with the Parish Priest.

Readers:

04 February 2024

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| Sat 6:30 | Sun 9:30 | Sun 11:00 |
| Jo Williams | Gerard Dolan | Anne Carr |