

Gospel commentary for 4th Sunday in ordinary time.

Jesus has announced the kingdom and is now healing sick people and casting out devils from those who are possessed. The reason for his coming was to preach a message of hope to a suffering world. Jesus so often had to reach out to touch the sick people who were pressing about him for healing. Much of Mark's gospel is taken up with his miracles of healing because this is what a wounded world demands. Some are dramatic exorcisms, others are small more domestic cures. In Simon's house he goes to the disciple's mother-in-law with fever on her bed. He takes her by the hand, helps her up and she is healed and given new hope.

Jesus healing goes deeper than this. He forgives sin and heals spiritual sickness. At the end of his life he shares our suffering by identifying with those who were poor and outsiders. He underwent their fate by being crucified between two criminals. It is only on the cross after he has suffered that Jesus will gain the full recognition of being both Messiah and Son of God.

Jesus confronts the misery of the world head-on. He makes the healing of sick people central to his ministry. By entering fully into the misery of the world through his cross and resurrection Jesus becomes for us a source of healing. Optimism is a feeling that things will get better, but Christian hope is rooted in a person who has triumphed over death.

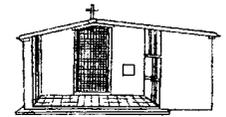
In the light of that hope we can pray to God for healing in many ways. God works through the skill of doctors and nurses in hospitals. But also in our communities through his presence among us, especially through the sacraments of healing. In baptism we are washed clean, in confirmation we are strengthened in the Spirit and in the sacrament of the sick Christ continues his healing work among us through the laying on of hands. Today at Mass we are fed with the bread of life in Holy Communion. But we are also healed by care in our homes through the loving concern of our fellow Christians. Healing is not always dramatic but we are called to walk slowly in hope.



St. John Fisher
Wellington



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Parish Bulletin for Sunday 4th February, 2018



At Wellington unless noted					Mass this week:		
5th Sunday in ordinary time	Sunday	4 th	9.00am	Wiveliscombe For the parish			
			11.15am				
St Agatha	Monday	5 th	9.15am				
St Paul Miki & Companions	Tuesday	6 th	9.15am				
	Wednesday	7 th	9.15am				
			9.45am	Rosary			
	Thursday	8 th	10.00am	Wiveliscombe			
	Friday	9 th	9.15am				
St Scholastica	Saturday	10 th	10.00am				
6th Sunday in ordinary time	Sunday	11 th	9.00am	Wiveliscombe			
			11.15am	For the parish			
Confessions: Usually Saturday 10.30 – 11.00am							
Readers / Communion ministers:							
Sun 4 th 9am: Mary Hutchings, Oliver Donnelly/Anita Abrams, Mary Crabtree 11.15am: Steve Tapsfield. Paddy Finnegan/Jimmy Jose, Alma Hamilton							
Sun 11 th 9am: Tim Lunn, Greg Hunt/Yvon Hunt, Adrian Kellett 11.15am: Jackie Tapsfield, Pat Ruffell-Hazell/Cynthia Rafter, John Nutt							
Hymns for 11.15am Mass							
Ent: ; Kyrie said; Gloria:48; Gifts: Holy Holy:50; Mem acc:50; Amen50 ; Agnus Dei:51; Comm.; Recess:							
Psalm response: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.							
Tea/Coffee after 11.15am. Mass: Sun.4 th : Sean & Cynthia Sun 11 th : Jackie & Steve							
Collection: Cash: £259.04 + direct debits c.£350							

*Please pray for SICK: Mary Wallace, Kathleen O'Connor
Joy Bellekom, Mary Hutchings & sick in our hospitals & nursing homes
around the parish.*

General.

Flowers at St John Fisher. No response for request for flower arrangers, but if anyone is willing to help, please speak to Monica Spalding, phone no 667318

Books for Lent. Watch the C.T.S. bookstalls for new Lent books. Also, see the poster for “Read of the Month” – “The Beauty of Confession with Pope Francis” – special price of £1.85. NEW. Especially recommended: Calvary through the eyes of Mary” – a new Stations of the Cross

Today

January 100 Club draw after 11.15am Mass.

This Week

Church cleaning at St John Fisher: Thursday 8th February at 9.30am.

Blood Donor sessions: Thursday 8th February, 1.30 – 3.3- & 4.30 – 5.20.

See poster in porch.

Coming Events

Choir rehearsals at Clifton Cathedral for The Rite of Election and Chrism Mass.

Across Pilgrimage to Lourdes Easter 2018. See poster in porch for details, also www.cliftonms.com

YEAR OF MISSION

Fifth Sunday of the year

The “first full day” of Jesus’ ministry is a full one! You really get a sense that preaching and proclaiming the kingdom needs so much energy and enthusiasm. This Sunday’s gospel takes us to a home - the home of Simon and Andrew. It’s here that Jesus reaches out to the mother-in-law. He reaches out and he touches her just as he reaches out and touches so many in his ministry. Jesus isn’t frightened or constrained by those barriers which might have prevented him from touching. There is no one who is excluded now from the touch of God in their lives. Having been healed, Simon’s mother-in-law gets up and waits on them – that encounter with Jesus leads to discipleship. There will be opportunities during this week for each of us to have a *touching* impact on those around us; someone may come to encounter Christ in us which may well lead them to discipleship. In this *Year of Mission* let’s not be afraid to be the very touch of God in the lives of others.

Holy Father’s February Mission intention:
*Say “No” to corruption – That those who have material,
political or spiritual power may resist the lure of corruption.*