

Gospel Reflection

When Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law, it seems like an act of backhanded kindness. Here was someone to prepare the dinner and serve the visitors. The true translation shows something more. The word for serve is 'diakonia' the same root as for diaconate or deacon. Her healing is an invitation to spiritually serve.

The Lectionary places verses of Job's grief with this gospel. The uselessness of life. An interpretation may be that Simon's mother-in-law is suffering from this same grief. Living in Simon's house suggests that she is a widow, perhaps feeling that she is a burden on the family. Perhaps the fever could be translated as the phrase 'taken to her bed' which covered periods of depression and anxiety when such things were not recognised.

For Jesus, used to his mother's wisdom and company, this healing is necessary. Jesus' intervention gives Simon's mother-in-law life and purpose. She is invited to be part of the Good News. The news, that Jesus insists, must be taken to all corners of the earth.

BINGO NIGHT FRIDAY 13TH APRIL: In aid of Doctor Fallon's chosen Charity – Autism Group and Carer's Association. We would be delighted to receive any donations and Prizes. Why not bring along your unwanted Christmas Presents to help a very good cause. Please leave them in the sacristy marked "Bingo".

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 11am Mass on Sunday morning.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm. that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's RC Church
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Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united in love, with a common purpose and a common mind"
Philippians 2:2

4TH FEBRUARY 2018 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE B) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 3rd February	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Hugh Duffy RIP
Sunday 4th February	9:30am 11:00am	Dr Ken Keane (Galway) RIP People of the Parish
Monday 5th February	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion
Tuesday 6th February	10:00am	Requiem Mass – Tracey Simpson RIP
Wednesday 7th February		No service
Thursday 8th February	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion
Friday 9th February		No service
Saturday 10th February	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Francisco Da Silva De Araujo
Sunday 11th February	9:30am 11:00am	Tracey Simpson RIP People of the Parish
Monday 12th February	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion

Whilst Father Simon is away if you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133**. Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently. For non-emergency queries please contact Derek Pearce.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mrs Christina McLeod

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

If you would like to make a donation for the flowers please add your name to the list in the porch and place your donation into the wall box.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSHINGHAM: If you haven't already returned your completed forms, can you please let us have these as soon as possible.

THANK YOU: Irene and Family wish to thank you all for your kindness, prayers, Mass Cards, sympathy cards, also for attending Hughie's funeral Mass. A special thank you to Father Simon for his comforting ministrations and the very special Requiem Mass he said for Hughie. A very sad time made easier with so many good people. Thanks also to Derek for his help. Donations of £260 went to St. Lukes Day Hospice and £210 to our food bank.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel Reading Mk 1: 29-39

Directly on leaving the meeting place, Jesus came to Simon and Andrew's house, accompanied by James and John. Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed, burning up with fever. They told Jesus. He went to her, took her hand, and raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up fixing dinner for them.



That evening, after the sun was down, they brought sick and evil-afflicted people to him, the whole city lined up at his door! He cured their sick bodies and tormented spirits. Because the demons knew his true identity, he didn't let them say a word.



While it was still night, way before dawn, he got up and went out to a secluded spot and prayed. Simon and those with him went looking for him. They found him and said, "Everybody's looking for you."



Jesus said, "Let's go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I've come." He went to their meeting places all through Galilee, preaching and throwing out the demons.

WALK WITH ME - READING FOR LENT: As well as the My Day By Day booklets we have copies of Walk With Me available in the porch. Price £1 each. Please place your money in the Wall Box in the inner porch by the Hymn Books.

"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi