

# The Living Word

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**7 February 2021**

## First Reading Jb 7:1-4. 6-7

*I am filled with sorrow all day long.*

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more  
than pressed service,  
his time no better than hired drudgery?  
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,  
or the workman with no thought but his  
wages,  
months of delusion I have assigned to  
me,  
nothing for my own but nights of grief.  
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be  
day?'  
Risen I think, 'how slowly evening  
comes!'  
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.  
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days  
have passed,  
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.  
Remember that my life is but a breath,  
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3**

**(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the  
broken-hearted.**

or

**(R.) Alleluia!**

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;  
sing to our God for he is loving:  
to him our praise is due. (R.)
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem  
and brings back Israel's exiles,  
he heals the broken-hearted,  
he binds up all their wounds.  
He fixes the number of the stars;  
he calls each one by its name. (R.)
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;  
his wisdom can never be measured.  
The Lord raises the lowly;  
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23

*Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel,  
since it is a duty which has been laid on  
me; I should be punished if I did not preach  
it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might  
have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is  
a responsibility which has been put into my  
hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is  
this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the

Good News free, and not insist on the rights  
which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I  
have made myself the slave of everyone so  
as to win as many as I could. For the weak I  
made myself weak. I made myself all things  
to all men in order to save some at any cost;  
and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel,  
to have a share in its blessings.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 8:17

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**He bore our sickness,  
and endured our suffering  
Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mk 1:29-39

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or  
another.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with  
James and John straight to the house of  
Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-  
in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they  
told him about her straightaway. He went to  
her, took her by the hand and helped her  
up. And the fever left her and she began to  
wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought  
to him all who were sick and those who were  
possessed by devils. The whole town came  
crowding round the door, and he cured  
many who were suffering from diseases  
of one kind or another; he also cast out  
many devils, but he would not allow them  
to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got  
up and left the house, and went off to  
a lonely place and prayed there. Simon  
and his companions set out in search of  
him, and when they found him they said,  
'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered,  
'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring  
country towns, so that I can preach there  
too, because that is why I came.' And he  
went all through Galilee, preaching in their  
synagogues and casting out devils.



**Reflection** by Fr Michael Tate

The mother-in-law of Simon (Peter)  
was sick in bed with a raging fever.  
When Jesus learned about her  
distressed state, he 'took her by  
the hand and helped her up'. He  
broke the taboo about physical  
contact with a woman not his  
relative because he wanted to  
holistically heal her dis-ease.

Simon's mother-in-law didn't need  
an aspirin and a cup of tea. She  
felt quarantined, isolated, and  
needed a hand reassuring her of  
sociable relationships. Jesus  
overcame her fever and her dis-  
ease with the world.

At every Mass we exchange a  
physical gesture at the greeting of  
Peace. This quite often overcomes  
being ill-at-ease with a family  
member or just with the neighbour  
in the pew. We need to take that  
symbolic action into the world. For  
somebody, it may be the most  
touching thing we ever do.

We could pause for a moment to  
identify that person who needs us  
to reach out, to take their hand  
and help them up.

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# Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- |          |         |       |
|----------|---------|-------|
| alone    | Galilee | meal  |
| diseases | gather  | pray  |
| door     | good    | sick  |
| fever    | house   | Simon |

E V Q I Y D B W E L D C M U D L R  
 I O Q K X W S H B K A W H Y R E F  
 V J A Y S R D Q X C G T D C H M P  
 J H M I I M G O O D M T A T L Z G  
 Y D I V O E W H L H T M A D L P O  
 Y L G D I S E A S E S G N O E L K  
 O H O U U H Q H F P I T G O Z G L  
 S C Z M Q H C L E M R M T R M A T  
 Q W O S G Y H F A O H Q K O E I Q  
 E M L A M Q O L E V K H L M N S S  
 C E X Z O Z V L V V O W U O E Q U  
 A F L R J J V Q L B E M I Q S Z P  
 B A X I E F T J X N S R Y C U F B  
 K V S N L Z F O G I N N G S O V L  
 Q D O I P A E A C N O C U D H V Z  
 O L I J M Y G K A Z E P N P I N O  
 A P R A Y N F O N E P L D D Y G J

**T**he Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, on the 11th of February 1858, at a cave near the river Gave in France. She showed Bernadette a hidden spring and told her to drink and wash from it. Over the next few months she appeared to her on seventeen occasions; sometimes in the presence of others, although only Bernadette could see her. She told Bernadette to tell priests to build a chapel at the spring, and that she should pray for the conversion of sinners. As a result of these visions, Lourdes has become one of the greatest pilgrim shrines in Christian history, with many people claiming the water has miraculous healing powers.

Colour in all the shapes that contain dots to reveal what Jesus wants everyone to know.

