

## Homily 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year B 2024

Despite the numbers of people who come for healing or their motive for coming, Jesus readily and willingly heals them. It is only right therefore that in wanting to follow in the footsteps of Jesus that we do the same. We have been given the Sacrament of the Sick to do just that. All of you who have come here therefore are welcome to receive this sacrament of the sick for your healing in body, mind and soul.

Jesus leaves the synagogue after healing a demoniac to walk among friends, community, and family. He wishes to be found in the relationships he has with people. He takes the hand of Simon's mother-in-law and in helping her up her fever abates. Others with afflictions, obsessions, and interior injuries also reach out to touch Jesus. Despite this not being his major work, he always has time for those on the periphery and the excluded.

Wherever he goes and whatever he does, Jesus always makes time for prayer, maybe checking up with the Father to make sure he is fulfilling the Father's will and not his own. We should never forget the importance of prayer and of silence and being alone with God.

It is in his relationships and with the wounded of the world that Jesus maintains this dimension of quiet and prayer as a hallmark of his life, as it should be in ours. Solitude, relationships, and human solidarity is the ground from which Jesus sets out to proclaim the good news and visit the synagogues of Galilee. How can our practice of faith, our discipleship, not be otherwise? Jesus not only transforms our secluded moments, our intimacies, and our social compassion. He lives there.

In our human solitude, we find not isolated brokenness but discover a citadel of relationship with God. Our friends are not diversions, they give our life in God flesh and blood. The call of the wounded is not merely a problem to be solved, it is an invitation to be a channel of God's love and redeeming power.

Through this sacrament of healing, we offer God the opportunity to respond to our inner needs and although it may not appear that anything has happened. God always responds but, in his time, not ours. May God's healing love fill all your lives. Amen.

**I went to a faith healing session** at the local community centre last night but it was absolute rubbish. Even the chap in the wheelchair got up and walked out...

**Man to Doctor: When this heals will I be able to play an instrument?**

Doctor: Yes, you will be able to in a few days.

Man: That's great! I've always wanted to play an instrument.