

5th Sunday OT (B)

8th February 2015

'Volunteer cards'

Job 7: delusion and drudgery of life.

1Cor 9: duty to preach the Gospel.

Mk 1: 29–39: He cured many.

As you probably know, from my homily last week, and from the Newsletter, we're going to complete an exercise today to give you an opportunity to help in various tasks around the parish, and to building-up the breadth of commitment to our parish's life.

We have heard in the Gospel today how Our Lord went straight from the Sabbath worship at the synagogue to the home of Simon Peter and Andrew. Here He cured Simon's mother-in-law, and for the remainder of that Sabbath rest, they enjoyed time together in the domestic simplicity of that family home. Our Lord is *meant* to inhabit our everyday lives — He wishes to be with us daily, in all things. So, as we seek to live the life of a Christ-centred community, it's right that we invite Him in prayer to accompany us in our tasks. Everything we do as the Church, we should do with Christ. I think, therefore, that it is right once in a while, in the context of this supreme prayer of the Mass, to take time to consider our

commitments. Sometimes this takes the form of our financial commitment; today, instead, it takes the form of our commitment to parish life. The cards in the pews are hopefully straightforward to fill in; they don't list every single volunteer opportunity, because in some cases we have enough parishioners helping for now. There are also opportunities open to children, e.g. in serving at the altar and, if there are at secondary school, in reading at Mass.

Before we complete our task, I ask you to join with me, in your hearts, in a prayer to invoke the inspiration and guidance of God the Holy Spirit, our consoler and advocate: *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and light up in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth.* So I invite you now to spend the next 3–4 mins in filling in the cards to the extent that you can and wish. Please use a separate card for each different person, whether adult or child. Let's do this now in an attitude of quiet and prayer, asking the Lord to guide us each in what He wishes of us at this time ... *Come, Holy Spirit ...*