

**OUR LADY OF WINDERMERE & ST.
HERBERT AND MATER AMABILIS,
AMBLESIDE**

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Today's Gospel

This Sunday, our lectionary returns to Mark's Gospel after a number of Sundays in which we heard the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of John. Recall that we focus on the Gospel of Mark in Lectionary Cycle B, but substitute John's report of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes for Mark's report of this event.

In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus' teaching and the practice of his first disciples.

Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness—clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmasks a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life.

If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus' disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus' teaching: his antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus' disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus' words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning.

Jesus' words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST: Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

Parish News

WELCOME to any visitors who are on holiday or visiting.

Grasmere: The work is almost completed and will be ready for the family to move into the presbytery on the 1st September. My thanks go to those people that have volunteered and worked tirelessly, from time to time and day in and day out helping with many aspects of the renovation works. Without this help the project would not have been possible in the timescales and of course without the volunteers the cost of the renovation would have been a lot higher.

In preparation for future possibilities with regard to the rest of the site I have taken the decision to now lock the carpark from last Friday. It was inevitable that this would need to happen, the car park is used by a number of people both locally and by visitors to the area. This of course will be disappointing to some people, but I am sure they will appreciate and accept the good will that has been shown to them over many years by the parish of Grasmere.

There are of course the normal rumours flying around with regard to the, Church, Presbytery and car park all of which are not true or helpful and shows a lack of respect and privacy for all those involved. As you are all well aware I have been nothing but transparent and have kept you all up-to-date and will continue to do so, please correct any miss information and don't listen to gossip.

If anyone has any questions or concerns then please feel free to contact me either by phone or email at the parish office.

Grasmere Church: we have successfully removed the statue of Our Lady mounted on the slate background, which is now ready to be transported to Ambleside and placed into the church. Many thanks to those who helped with the removal and transportation.

Other News

CAFOD responding to multiple emergencies across the world

CAFOD is responding to significant crises across the world this week. We are working with local Church organisations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In the tragic situation in Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. We are supporting local aid workers to deliver urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. You can read more about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies on the CAFOD website:

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>.

Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you.

Masses and Intentions

Sat	5:30 pm (W)) Gina Ashworth RIP
Sun	9.30 am (A) Tony Lawrence RIP
Sun	11.15 am (W) People of the parishes
Tue	5pm (A)
Wed	9.30 am (W)
Fri	9:30 (W)
Sat	5:30 pm (W)
Sun	9:30 am (A)
Sun	11:15 am (W)

Sick: Bernard Hanson, Margaret Simon, Rose Crowe, Anne Sowerby, Elizabeth Carden and Veronica Slater

Anniversaries:

Please send bulletin items to Fr. Darren Carden at southlakesrc@gmail.com by 12 noon on Wednesdays.