

13th / 14th February 2021 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

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

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Today's Gospel

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man, and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honour. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honours the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions

of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

A prayer of spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Parish News

Telephone Line at Ambleside

The new telephone number to MATER AMABILIS Presbytery is 015394 33027

Work in progress

The sacristy, working sacristy and the parish room at Ambleside have now been completed, freshly painted and new flooring laid. This, together with a good clear out, has created much better use of the available space. Clearing out at Windermere has begun in the sacristy and the working sacristy to enable us to make better use of the space there.

I am continuing with the work of emptying both Grasmere and Windermere Presbyteries. Some furniture is being used at Ambleside, while other items are being used in the sacristies at both Ambleside and Windermere. Old and damaged furniture is being broken up and taken to the tip. I am grateful to those people who are currently helping to dispose of these items.

Offertory Envelopes

We are about to order the Offertory envelopes for both parishes for the new year, 2021/22, starting in April. Each week we are receiving about five envelopes on the collection plate between the two

parishes, which means that most of the envelopes ordered last year are either still at the back of church or are at home not being used due to lockdown. We are very grateful to those gift aid contributors who have switched to donating via internet banking or standing order. Please be assured we will still be able to claim the tax back on your contributions. The pandemic has caused us all to change so many things in our lives, mainly the use of the internet. At this stage, it is impossible to predict when lockdown will be over and we will be able to return to some kind of normality. Therefore, we would suggest that if you currently give by bank transfer, standing order etc then continue to give in this way. This would mean that we would not need to order envelopes for this year.

There may be some people who have been putting aside their contributions until they are able to return to Church. In order for us to claim the tax back on these donations, we will have to receive them before the 4th April 2021. With this in mind, you may wish to send your donation in either via cheque or bank transfer. You may also wish to set up a monthly standing order or bank transfer for your offerings in the coming year. If you are happy to continue your donation via the bank, or indeed if you are happy to start doing so, please let Anne Corin know so that we can allocate envelopes accordingly. If you have any queries about ways of donating, or Gift Aid, or if your address has changed, or you no longer pay income tax, please also contact Anne on 015394 33944 or annecorin@btinternet.com.

News from the Diocese

From the Bishop's Blog

"I am aware of elements in society that are 'anti-vaccine'. I wish to repeat what has already been made public by the Vatican and by our local Episcopal Conference, that the Church gives every encouragement to you to have the Covid vaccine. Statements can be found on the Vatican website and the website of the Bishops' Conference. Some may have praiseworthy concerns about the origins of various vaccines. Reassurance will be found in

the statements designed to allay such anxieties. We are not abandoning our campaign to defend unborn lives".

Lancaster Diocese Youth Service during lockdown

Our diocesan youth service, based at Castlerigg Manor, is organising various online events during the lockdown. Please pass the details on to anyone who may benefit.

RISE // Online Youth Group - Our first online Youth Group launches on March 11th. It's free of charge and open to anyone in Years 7 to 9. Every other Thursday from 7pm to 8pm. www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/riseonline

Online Study Days for Adults - Our first study day will be on Saturday March 13th. Father Michael Docherty will be talking to us about Salvation History. Tickets £5. 1pm to 5pm. www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/study

Overflow (Online Group for 18-30s) // Connecting young adults. Sign up...

Youth Mental Health First Aid (online) // We are offering a HUGE reduction on our normal price. Tickets are just £95, for this two-day course accredited by MHFA England. Your chance to learn how to spot the warning signs of poor mental health and how you can help. The Mental Health equivalent of learning CPR! Book...

ENGAGE // Online Youth Ministry Course - The second run of the ENGAGE course starts on March 16th. The course is aimed at people starting out in Youth Ministry, or people who've been around a while and want to learn a little more. Earlybird price £48 until February 10th. www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/engage

Lent - 2021

Ash Wednesday is on 17th February. Traditionally, we have three categories of penitential activity: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Christians inherited these from our Jewish brothers and sisters. They are mentioned in the Sermon on the Mount (see Mt 6). Prayer: we have all sorts of opportunities, together and alone, to give a little more attention

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to prayer. Put attendance at Mass (either in church or on-line) at the top of your list. Alone at home you could sit quietly with the Lord for 5 minutes each day. No need to plan anything for these moments; just be with God... and listen. Fasting: this can also include abstinence, which means giving something up. We are asked as adult Catholics to fast and abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Although this requirement is currently suspended by the Church due to the present circumstances, we can still freely choose to deny ourselves. Treats of course can be put aside for the 40 days. But we might also 'abstain' from other activities we enjoy. Perhaps a little less music, TV or social media. Or be really daring! Add some religious music to your 'play list'. Almsgiving: this means sharing our material resources. No advice is needed here. There are numerous opportunities to give.

Ash Wednesday

The Congregation for Divine Worship has issued a note regarding the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. It reads:

The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel", or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything. END

CAFOD's Big Walk for Water

This Lent we will be hearing about Abdella who makes a 10 hour trek every day through the mountains of Ethiopia to collect water for his family. His country is becoming hotter and drier each year.

CAFOD is inviting the whole of the Catholic community in England and Wales to walk in solidarity with Abdella, as well as each other. On

Saturday, 20th February, at 2pm, Theresa Wooll and Anne Corin will each be doing a 5-mile walk (10,000 steps) and invite you to walk at the same time, either with your family, your support bubble, with your dog or just on your own. You can choose whatever distance is right for you, but could you find people to sponsor you so that, together, we can make sure that people like Abdella have access to clean, safe water near their homes. Sponsorship money can be paid in on our JustGiving page <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/big-walk-for-water-ambleside-and-windermere-s>, or of course, it can be handed direct to the walkers.

CAFOD Family Fast Day itself is on Friday 26th February. There will be more information about this in next weekend's newsletter, and Fast Day envelopes will also be available.

Masses and Intentions

Sat	5.30 pm (W)	People of the Parishes
Sun	9.30 am (A)	Gleeson Family
Sun	11.15 am (W)	Ann, Charles, Peter Cooke
Tues	No Mass	

Ash Wednesday

Wed	9.30 am (W)	Intention DW
Wed	6PM (A)	People of the Parishes
Thur	5PM (A)	Clarie McManus RIP (JHN)
Fri	9.30 am (W)	Holy Souls (JHN)
Sat	5.30 pm (W)	People of the Parishes
Sun	09:30am (A)	John Rabjohns RIP (100)
Sun	11:15 am (W)	The Philips Family

Lately Dead:

Anniversaries: Fr Stephen Cross, Fr B Shuttleworth, Fr Tony Ashcroft, Jane Nicholson, Alice Breakwell, Stanley Prowfoot, Stanley Reid, Ellen Fay, Emma Sliotet, Mary Agnes Fleming, Teresa Turner, Elizabeth Jackson, William Mullen, James Flood, Mary & Eileen Kidd, Rev B Cunningham, Canon Harrison, Rev T Burrow, Rev T Bell.

