

CNA from Rome: 1. Pope Francis made a surprise stop at a shantytown on his way to celebrate Mass at a Roman parish Feb. 8 – a “secret” plan that only the pontiff knew about and which prompted tears of joy from residents. 2. In his homily Tuesday, Pope Francis said that Christians must have a certain “restlessness” if they want to know God, who is not found by staring at a computer, but rather by going outside of oneself. 3. Set to finish his encyclical on the environment next month, Pope Francis said during his daily Mass at the Vatican on Monday that Christians who fail to safeguard nature do not care about God's handiwork. 4. Pope Francis has advocated for the widespread participation of women in all levels of the Church and society, saying that their unique gifts enrich both their families – as well as the public sphere.

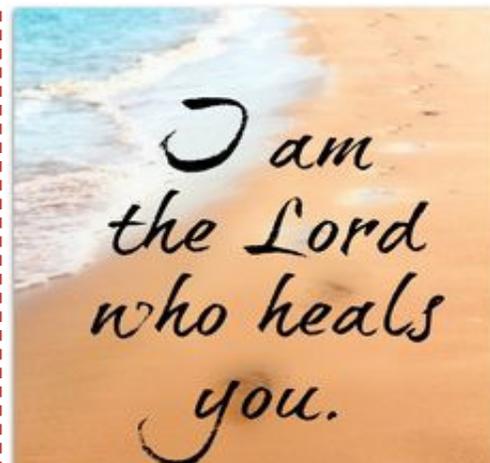


Pope Francis praised the Internet in a speech last year, but expressed concern about the speed and impersonal nature of social media.

In the Bible, the word *leprosy* is mentioned upwards of 40 times. Leprosy was common in ancient times, and the many references to it were well understood by those who lived in unsanitary conditions. The main reason why leprosy is talked about so much in the Bible is that it is a graphic illustration of sin's destructive power. In ancient Israel leprosy was a powerful object lesson of the debilitating influence of sin in a person's life. God had given the Israelites very specific instructions on how to deal with leprosy and other skin infections (Leviticus 13). Anyone suspected of having this disease had to go to a priest for examination (Leviticus 13:2-3). If found to be infected, “the leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp” (Leviticus 13:45-46). The leper then was considered utterly unclean—physically and spiritually. Incurable by man, many believed God inflicted the curse of leprosy upon people for the sins they committed. In fact, those with leprosy were so despised and loathed that they were not allowed to live in any community with their own people (Numbers 5:2). A leper wasn't allowed to come within six feet of any other human, including his own family. Lepers lived in a community with other lepers until they either got better or died. This was the only way the people knew to contain the spread of the contagious forms of leprosy. The Bible records the story of a leper who was the first to be healed by Jesus (Matthew 8:2-4). The key lesson to be learned from this incident is that sin defiles us in the sight of God, but through Christ, we can be healed of the plague of sin that separates us from God. But those who have been redeemed from sin by grace through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9) can stand in God's presence in full confidence that we are accepted “in the Beloved,” and we praise Him for the grace He extends to us for that purpose (Ephesians 1:5-7). When we plead for cleansing and forgiveness, He will not turn us away (Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 103:12).

St Michael's Catholic Church

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 Deepen your faith-find answers on
 Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments.
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15th Feb. 2015 (B)

6th Ordinary Sunday

1ST READING: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

2ND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: St Mark 1:40-45

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WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Sat. Vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am

Wed: 6pm

Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Hostel)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15 – 5:45pm

Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS: By appointment

ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

100% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

FAITH FORMATION:

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat Vigil: †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera

Sun 8am: †Sumitomo

Sun 9:30am: Barry Jones

Sun 5pm: †Fr Frank

Mon: Special Intention

Tue: †Sumitomo

Wed: Special Intention

Thur: †Augustine

Fri: †Keith Cook

OUR SICK: Marie and Edgar Busuttill, Pat Raby, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Moira Butler, Alan Sargeant, Henry Morris and Minerva Alimario...

Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – accommodation is available now! For further details please call Joe de Andrade (Manager-Property) on 0438 696 396 or Patricia Low (Manager-Admin) Parish Office on 9349 1292

Happy Birthdays to: Barry Dunn (16th)

THE NEXT ANOINTING MASSES will be held on the weekend of 28th Feb / 1st March.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES are now available in the church foyer for your Lenten donations.

PARISH MINISTRY ROSTERS: The new roster is due at the beginning of April. Parishioners wishing to apply for any of the Parish Ministries should contact Patricia (Parish office) before **6th March**. Anyone wanting to alter or to resign their current ministry should also contact her before that date. Thank you to all ministers for your continued support and commitment.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS: 1) **Class Mass:** Fri 27th Feb: Year 2; Fri 6th Mar: Year 4. 2) **Family Mass:** Sat 21st Feb: Kindy & Buddy; Sat 28th Feb: Kindy & Buddy.

The Great Adventure: Bible Study, 3rd Sundays of the month, 3:30pm presbytery. First session: **15th Feb.**

Catholicism, The Journey with Fr. Robert E. Barron. 4th Sun. at 3:30 pm presbytery. First session: **22nd Feb.**

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) M Butler, V Hage(R) F Doherty, C Lan Kam (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) M Marshielle, T Long (R) A Burke, M Wells (C) P Low (M)
9.30am: A Varghese (A) H Evening, K Wong (R) C Findlay, C Goncalves (C) T Chin (M)
5.00pm: R Yang (A) Volunteers (R) Volunteers (C) **Counters:** J Haggar, M Wells

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) L Paquin, J Spora (R) G Hage, S Tjen (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)
9.30am: A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) N Jenner, L Jenner(C) T Chin (M)
5.00pm: R Yang (A) J Chandra, D Sarmiento (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

Wednesday 18th February:

Mass times: 9:15am (School Mass) and 7pm. (Holy Hour from 6pm)

On this day, those who completed their eighteenth year and have yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain from meat. These observances apply also to Good Friday.



Stations of the Cross will begin from Friday 20th Feb. to Friday 27th March at 7pm in Church.

Lent lasts from Ash Wed to Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive (Thurs 2nd April). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter Fast is observed.

Lenten books ("Rich in Mercy") will be available for your groups. Please join the programme by forming groups for only 6 weeks. This year Lenten reflections are based on the resources from Brisbane Archdiocese. Please form your groups asap.

Celebrate marriage and spread God's message of love during this special month. 14 Feb. Valentine's Day.



"If Valentine were here today, he would say to married couples that there comes a time where you're going to have to suffer. It's not going to be easy to maintain your commitment and your vows in marriage. Don't be surprised if the 'gushing' love that you have for someone changes to something less "gushing" but maybe much more mature. And the question is, is that young person ready for that?"

Celebrate Chinese New Year at Dacey Gardens (General Bridges Cresc) on Sat 21st Feb. from 4pm to 9pm. There will be dancing lions, noodle markets and folk music.



The first day of the 2015 Chinese New Year is on February 19, 2015 in China's time zone. This day is a new moon day, and is the first day of the first Chinese lunar month in the Chinese Lunar Calendar system. The exact new moon time is at 07:48 a.m. on 19-Feb-2015 in China's time zone. The Year 2015 is the 4712th Chinese year. The Chinese believe that the first king of China was the Yellow King. The Yellow King became king in 2697 B.C., therefore China will enter the 4712th year on February 19, 2015. Also, the Chinese Year uses the cycle of 60 Stem-Branch counting systems and the Green Wood Sheep is the 32nd Stem-Branch in the cycle. Since $(60 * 78) + 32 = 4712$, therefore 2015 is the Wooden Sheep year, which is the 4712th Chinese Year.