

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Hear my voice, O Lord, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:2-6.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 100.

RESPONSE:

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him singing for joy. *R*
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us; we belong to him.
We are his people, the sheep of his flock. *R*
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. *R*

SECOND READING: Romans 5:6-11.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel. Alleluia.

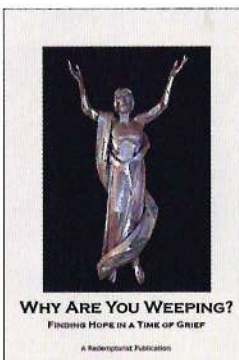
GOSPEL: Matthew 9:36-10:8.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek; to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Just as he encountered Mary Magdalene with the question, "Why are you weeping?", Jesus continues to come to those who mourn the death of loved ones.

A new and revised version of the very popular first edition, this book is offered in the hope that it will bring readers who are grappling with questions of faith and feelings of loss, into contact with the compassion of Jesus.



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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 19 June (St Romuald, Ab)

2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Psalm 98; Matthew 5:38-42

"Mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us." – Teresa of Ávila

Tue 20 June Liturgy of the Day

2 Corinthians 8:1-9; Psalm 146; Matthew 5:43-48

Praying for those with whom we have a hard time is key to letting God foster a true love and concern in our hearts toward them. It's a way of letting God reform our emotions and feelings.

Wed 21 June St Aloysius Gonzaga, R

2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Psalm 112; Matthew 6:1-6.16-18

Look deeply and honestly at your motivations. Why do you do what you do? Think about the good things you try to do, and the motivation behind them. Are you OK with no-one recognising your acts of love?

Thu 22 June (St Paulinus of Nola, B)

2 Corinthians 11:1-11; Psalm 111; Matthew 6:7-15

When we have trouble praying, Teresa of Ávila recommends that we turn to nature: "Go to some place where you can see the sky, and walk up and down a little." ...God is infinite and everywhere... – Tessa Bielecki

Fri 23 June Liturgy of the Day

2 Corinthians 11:18.21-30; Psalm 34; Matthew 6:19-23

Today's gospel points to the danger of becoming overly attached to material wealth. But the same goes for anything we can tend to become attached to. What is it that you are attached to? What is your treasure?

Sat 24 June BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 139; Luke 1:57-66.80

As with Zechariah, the consequences of sin are permitted by God as a way of drawing us back to fidelity to God. But we need to allow them to humble us and change us, like it did Zechariah.

Sun 25 June 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 69; Matthew 10:26-33

Trust in God is only possible when we understand Who we are trusting. Allow God to help you let go of your own control of life. Try to make an act of total surrender to God and you will discover real freedom.

(KEY: **SOLENNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional Memorial)
Ab=Abbot; R=Religious; B=Bishop

Catholic Link

GOD WHO HEALS

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A
Divine Office: Week III • 18 June 2023

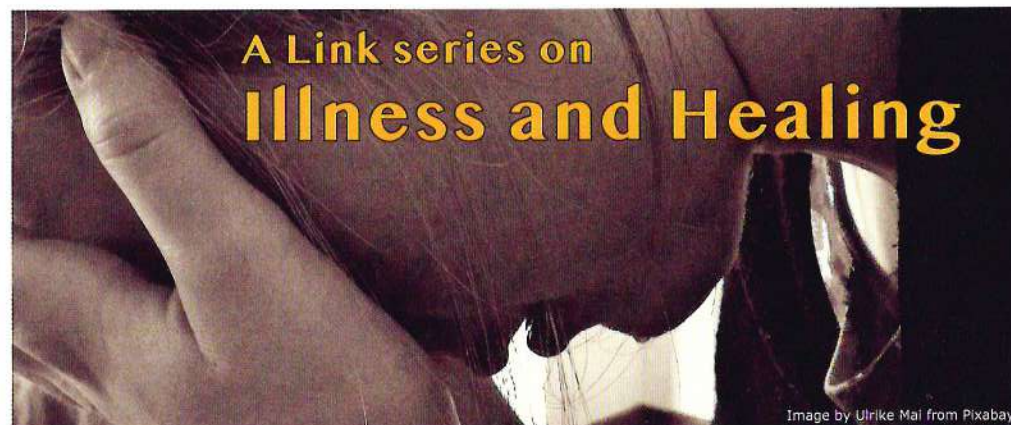


Image by Ulrike Mai from Pixabay

As human beings with complex bodies including nervous system, vital organs, and blood flowing through arteries and veins, whatever we may do to stay fit and healthy we cannot but experience sickness and suffering. We catch it in the air that we breathe, in food that we eat, in accident and trauma, and of course, in the very process of ageing. We also suffer from the oh-so-human complexities of mental, psychological and emotional dynamics too.

In the course of the following 23 weeks of "Ordinary Time" in the Church's liturgical calendar (what we at RPP call the "green season", after the colour of the vestments worn at this time) *Catholic Link* will offer a series of reflections on sickness and suffering, healing and wellness, exploring these in the light of faith in the "God who Heals" – the umbrella title of the series.

The articles will be based on a single foundational principle: The only spiritual life is life itself in all its ambiguities and pains, hopes and dreams – 'spiritual' not as removed from our humanity but life as it is, yet lived in and through the grace of the Holy Spirit at the heart of human existence itself. Grace builds on nature; grace does not replace nature. Look at how St Paul develops the same notion, moving from the struggles of being human to the ultimate joy of experiencing the Holy Spirit as a living flame of love that penetrates the darkness of suffering:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have

gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance produces character; and character, hope. And this hope does not deceive us because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:1-5)

Hearts need to be broken to allow that divine love to be poured in. We will reflect on some of life's heart-breaking experiences that come in illnesses, trauma, loss of bodily function, loss of mental capacity, and struggles with faith. All of this will be covered in our *Link* series here outlined:

- Common physical illness
- Severe illness and suffering
- Terminal illness
- Mental illness
- Spiritual illness
- Frailty and dementia
- Healthcare professions
- Ethical issues
- Caring for the carers
- Marriage – in sickness and in health
- Effects of illness on family and close friends
- Preliminary biblical and theological reflection
- Healing in the Old Testament
- Jesus, Sufferer
- Jesus, Healer
- Holy Spirit, Healer
- Mary, Health of the Sick
- All Saints, Healers
- Church, Healer
- Sacrament of the Sick