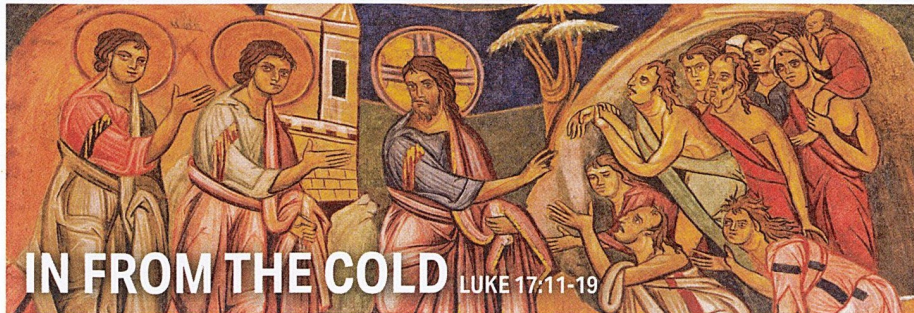


Sunday Message

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 12 October 2025 • Psalter Week 4



IN FROM THE COLD LUKE 17:11-19

Today's Gospel is the famous story about the cleansing of lepers. Leprosy is the name the Bible gives to many forms of skin disease, and not necessarily to the medical condition known today as leprosy, which is more accurately called Hansen's Disease.

The Bible has detailed rules (especially in the Book of Leviticus) for detecting such skin diseases. It treats them not just as a medical condition but as one that also carries a degree of religious impurity. Ancient medical knowledge was very limited, and sickness usually carried a religious as well as a physical significance. That is why the Bible gives a priest responsibility for assessing the degree of contagion and whether it is a serious case and, finally, certifying that the sufferer is cured.

It's possible that these ten victims are living together in a kind of settlement set aside for people like them, a kind of leprosarium. They observe the rules of avoiding contact with other people, but instead of calling out that they are 'unclean,' as the Law requires, they ask Jesus to take pity on them. He tells them to go to the priests responsible for assessing their skin condition. On the way, they realise that their skin has suddenly improved.

It is here we discover the point of this story. Nine of those who have been cured continue their journey, eager to meet their loved ones and get back into the flow of everyday life. Who would blame them? But one acts differently – the Samaritan who returns to throw himself in gratitude at Jesus' feet. Jesus recognises that it is a foreigner who has returned to give thanks. His final words to the Samaritan – "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well" – are a reminder that the Gospel's message of salvation will eventually come to the Samaritans also. Jesus has demonstrated once more, as he did in the story of the Good Samaritan, how open these people are to receiving the good news of salvation. ■

SAY

"I thank you, Lord, for all you have given me. Help me always to have a grateful heart."

DO

Visit a loved one who lives alone or in a nursing home and bring them some of the 'ease' and comfort of the healing presence of Jesus.

PRAY

When the Samaritan returns to Jesus to say thanks, Jesus tells him that it is his faith that has made him well. Because the Samaritan believed, he was restored to health. Ask the Lord to increase your faith.

LEARN

Christians are people with grateful hearts.

Thankfulness is actively acknowledging what God and others do for us and articulating it, making sure to let them know.



REFLECT

We are all very painfully aware now of what it's like to be physically cut off from others. During the Covid pandemic, we all had to practise social distancing to keep ourselves safe and prevent the highly contagious illness from spreading. It was a stressful time, especially for those living alone and older people cut off from their families. Despite the advances in communications technology which enabled people to stay connected and to see each other on FaceTime or Zoom, people felt the pain of isolation. They felt the absence of physical contact – a handshake, hug, kiss, an embrace, a shoulder to cry on, the physical expression of intimacy we need in order to flourish and grow. People experienced what social scientists call 'skin hunger,' touch deprivation. Experts say skin hunger is a major factor in incidents of depression among humans. All of us who were physically cut off from loved ones

during the Covid lockdown know exactly what is meant by skin hunger.

It gives us a good idea of what life was like for the lepers in today's Gospel. If you look at the word 'disease,' you'll notice it is made up of two parts: 'dis-', which usually means that something is out of place, e.g. disorder or dislocated, and 'ease' or comfort. To suffer from 'disease' in this sense is something worse than just being sick.

The lepers had to practise social distancing. They were removed from their families and from the rest of society. They suffered not only from their skin condition but also from skin hunger. No wonder they pleaded with Jesus to help them. No wonder that, after being healed, nine of them were so excited they forgot to thank Jesus for restoring their lives and their families to them.

All the healing stories of Jesus bring out this point: that he overcomes 'dis-ease' –

the distancing of suffering people from the community where they should be loved and cherished – every bit as much as he overcomes physical illness.

It's a lesson for how we should treat the sick and the isolated. It is not easy to be old or sick today. We live in a youth- and beauty-obsessed culture, the world of 'Instagram-face,' that promotes unrealistic, filtered versions of people. In this world of glamour and the influencer, of diets and workouts, of bronzed bodies and chiselled looks, the old, sick, and disabled can be overlooked, excluded, isolated from public view, forgotten. Some people refuse to visit hospitals or nursing homes because it's too distressing. There is an impulse to dodge the reality of illness, decay and old age.

Jesus excluded nobody from his love and attention. He cared especially for the marginalised and discarded ones. He wants us to do likewise. ■



HASLEMERE
HINDHEAD
CHIDDINGFOLD

Parish Bulletin

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time—12th October 2025

In today's brief Gospel, there are several verbs of motion. It is quite striking that the lepers are not healed as they stand before Jesus; it is only afterwards, as they were walking. The Gospel tells us that: "As they went, they were made clean" (v. 14). They were healed by going up to Jerusalem, that is, while walking uphill. On the journey of life, purification takes place along the way, a way that is often uphill since it leads to the heights. Faith calls for journey, a "going out" from ourselves, and it can work wonders if we abandon our comforting certainties, if we leave our safe harbours and our cosy nests. Faith increases by giving, and grows by taking risks. Faith advances when we make our way equipped with trust in God. Faith advances with humble and practical steps, like the steps of the lepers or those of Naaman who went down to bathe in the river Jordan (cf. 2 Kings 5:14-17). The same is true for us. We advance in faith by showing humble and practical love, exercising patience each day, and praying constantly to Jesus as we keep pressing forward on our way.

There is a further interesting aspect to the journey of the lepers: they move together. The Gospel tells us that, "as they went, they were made clean" (v. 14). The verbs are in the plural. Faith means also walking together, never alone. Once healed, however, nine of them go off on their own way, and only one turns back to offer thanks. Jesus then expresses his astonishment: "The others, where are they?" (v. 17). It is as if he asks the only one who returned to account for the other nine. It is the task of us, who celebrate the Eucharist as an act of thanksgiving, to take care of those who have stopped walking, those who have lost their way. We are called to be guardians of our distant brothers and sisters, all of us! We are to intercede for them; we are responsible for them, to account for them, to keep them close to heart. Do you want to grow in faith? You, who are here today, do you want to grow in faith? Then take care of a distant brother, a faraway sister.

To cry out. To walk. And to give thanks. This is the final step. Only to the one who thanked him did Jesus say: "Your faith has saved you" (v. 19). It made you both safe, and sound. We see from this that the ultimate goal is not health or wellness, but the encounter with Jesus. Salvation is not drinking a glass of water to keep fit; it is going to the source, which is Jesus. He alone frees us from evil and heals our hearts. Only an encounter with him can save, can make life full and beautiful. Whenever we meet Jesus, the word "thanks" comes immediately to our lips, because we have discovered the most important thing in life, which is not to receive a grace or resolve a problem, but to embrace the Lord of life. And this is the most important thing in life: to embrace the Lord of life.

...The culmination of the journey of faith is to live a life of continual thanksgiving. Let us ask ourselves: do we, as people of faith, live each day as a burden, or as an act of praise? Are we closed in on ourselves, waiting to ask another blessing, or do we find our joy in giving thanks? When we express our gratitude, the Father's heart is moved and he pours out the Holy Spirit upon us. **To give thanks is not a question of good manners or etiquette; it is a question of faith. A grateful heart is one that remains young. To say "Thank you, Lord" when we wake up, throughout the day and before going to bed: that is the best way to keep our hearts young, because hearts can grow old and be spoilt. This also holds true for families, and between spouses. Remember to say thank you. Those words are the simplest and most effective of all.**

This Sunday is Prisoners' Sunday and there will be a second collection to support the families of prisoners. Next week is Prison's Week and on Wednesday 15th, 7-8.30pm, there is a Zoom webinar: Women in the Criminal Justice System: Keeping Women out of Prison, with leading experts Emily Evison of Prison Reform Trust and Julia Corcoran of Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT), chaired by Bishop Richard. Register at: <https://www.nbcw.co.uk/event/keeping-women-out-of-prison/>

St Teresa of Avila is the titular saint of the church in Chiddingfold. 9am Mass in Chiddingfold **this Sunday** will be of St Teresa.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and Pope Leo urges us to pray the rosary daily for peace. There will be opportunities to pray the rosary with others after Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes **12.30pm** so please stay on and meet others to pray together. There are rosary cards at the back of church to take home. For reflections and more about this wonderful devotion: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/prayer/rosary/>

Also there is a house group for the Rosary at 4 The Spinney, Weycombe Road, Haslemere GU27 1SP at 2pm every Wednesday. All very welcome.

Next Sunday is World Mission Day Our prayers, our interest and our support make us messengers and builders of hope, a hope that does not disappoint. A special collection this day is taken by every Catholic community in the world to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the church is new, young or poor.

Next Sunday is also the Solemnity of St Philip Howard, Co-Patron Saint of our Diocese. The prayers and readings will be of the feast, not the Sunday. (1R Wis 3:1-9; Ps 30 "Into your hands..."; 2R 2Cor4:7-15; G Mt10:17-22).

Confirmation preparation 2025/26 Young people in Year 10 or above wishing to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation are warmly invited to have a look at the Confirmation page on our website <https://www.stedsgod.com/confirmation> and ask their parents to register using the link provided. Preparation should begin on Sunday 12th October, after which registration will close.

Following Bishop Richard's recent pastoral letter it has now been confirmed that **Guildford Deanery will become the new Parish of Guildford at the start of Advent**. Our church communities will continue to be the places in which the Gospel is proclaimed and the sacraments celebrated, and to be led by priests assigned to them, as at present. Working together will help us to be more effective in our prayer, formation and mission. Fr Jonathan, together with Fr Patrick will look after Godalming and Haslemere, Hindhead and Chiddingfold.

Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass at 6pm on Saturday 29th November at St Joseph's Guildford at which the new parish will be entrusted to its team of priests and Fr Jonathan will be inducted as their moderator. As many as are able from across the deanery, especially our parish, are warmly encouraged to attend.

St John Henry Newman will be solemnly proclaimed as a Doctor of the Church on 1st November as part of the Jubilee of the World Education at St Peter's in Rome.

ADoRE Celebration of 50 years of ministry 25th October, 9.30am-3.30pm, with Bishop Philip Egan, Charles Whitehead KSG, and Basingstoke Filipino Choir. 'Pilgrims of hope: the path of prayer: our spiritual pilgrimage into an intimate relationship with Jesus. www.altonrenewal.com/

Radio Maria England annual Mariathon 15-17 October, special programming focused on the 'Quiet Revival' - the growth of faith, church attendance and ministries over the past decade. Listen on a DAB radio, the App, or online: radiomariaengland.uk

Days of Reflection at Franciscan Centre Ladywell Second Saturday and Fourth Tuesday <https://franciscancentre.org.uk/upcoming-events/>

Marriage support - Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? Next programme starts 17th October Tel: 07887 296 983 www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Job vacancy - P/T Communications Officer based in Crawley with travel across the diocese. Apply by 16 October <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers>

Weekly Bulletin If you wish to receive the Parish Weekly Bulletin online on a Friday please sign up on the Parish Website. On the homepage click on 'Contact' and scroll down to 'Subscribe' and fill in your email address to join.

Global Action For Climate Change - 15th November. COP30 is taking place in Brazil from 10th to 21st November, and a day of action is planned in London and other major cities. It would be good to organise a group from the parish to attend. Would any one like to organise a group? If so please email: jolewry@aol.com You can register your interest with CAFOD and get more details <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/latest-campaigns/cop30>

Volunteering at HMP Send (a women's prison in Surrey). The Chaplaincy Team is seeking Catholic volunteers to join the women on Fridays from 13.15 to 3pm, for Rosary, Mass and post-service fellowship. Your presence offers spiritual encouragement and connection to the wider Church. No formal experience is needed, just a warm heart, a listening ear, and a willingness to be present. If you're interested or to learn more please contact: Aseel aseel.gilbert@justice.gov.uk

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill Whilst this is being considered at length in the House of Lords, the Catholic Church reiterates a firm opposition to the bill in principle and in practice. Despite being described by proponents as the safest of its kind, the bill remains unworkable. It puts the safety of our healthcare institutions, professionals, and patients at risk. Please keep praying.

Macmillan Coffee Morning A huge thank you to all those who baked, bought, ate cake and donated to last week's event. Between us we have raised an amazing £300 for the charity. Well done!

Faith Formation Series at St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth on Saturday mornings led by Fr John Seddon OSB: 'The Mystery of God: Who God Is and Why He Matters'. Next on 11th October. <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk> (search 'Chilworth')

100 Club Winners September £150 Robert Dibdin; £100 Dipak Barua; £50 Peter Rowley.

Thank you to all members of the 100 Club for their continued membership.

The 100 Club is one of the main ways in which the whole Parish can continue to raise money on a regular basis for charitable donations. The cost of one ticket is £5 per month but you can have more than one ticket.

If you are interested in joining the 100 Club forms are available at the back of the Church or contact The Parish Office.

Fr Jonathan will be on leave and annual retreat from after Mass on **12th October until 24th October.**

The Church's prayer intention for October is for collaboration between different religious traditions; that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

Donation by QR Code

You can give to our parish (including any current appeals) by using the Digital Plate, our [Parish Website](#) also by using the QR Code which is displayed at all our churches.



Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday 11 Oct St John XXIII	6pm Mass (St Anselm)
Sunday 12 Oct TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00am Mass (St Teresa) 9.30am Mass (Holy Cross) 11am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) - Monica Marshall RIP 12.30pm Rosary (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Monday 13 October St Edward the Confessor	10am Mass (St Joseph's, Guildford)
Tuesday 14 October	9.30am Adoration (Our Lady of Lourdes) 10.00am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Wednesday 15 October St Teresa of Jesus (Teresa of Avila)	9.30am Mass (Holy Cross) 9.30am Mass (St Joseph's, Milford)
Thursday 16 Oct	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's, Godalming)
Friday 17 Oct St Ignatius of Antioch	9.30am Adoration (Our Lady of Lourdes) 10.00am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) -
Saturday 18 Oct St Luke	6pm Mass (St Anselm)
Sunday 19 Oct ST PHILIP HOWARD, Martyr Patron of the Diocese	9.00am Mass (St Teresa) 9.30am Mass (Holy Cross) 11am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) - Richard Assender RIP 12.30pm Rosary (Our Lady of Lourdes)

Second Collection

This Weekend

Prisoners' Sunday

Next Weekend

World Mission Sunday

Live Simply Tips

Going shopping? Don't forget your reusable bag and look for refills for foodstuffs and cleaning products - less packaging, less waste

Please Pray For

The sick: Caroline Foster, Mary Thomas, Michael Gaul, Charlotte Lindsay, Henrietta Lenahan (Holt), Arul Salathian, Diana Molyneux, Louise Milford, Hazel O'Flynn, Abigail Stafford Johnson, Livvy Miller, Louise Reeve, Patricia Reidy, Jo Allen, Jane Adolph, Carmel & Roland Murray, Teresa Marshall, Alberto Costantini and Sebastian Codlin.

The Deceased: Colin Hammond, Philippa Newall, Bernadette Gibson, Lily Baker, Harold Butcher, Sr Mary Augustine, Bob Ripley, Michael, Maura Nichololson-Clohesy

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.*

COLLECT

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING 2 Kings 5:14-17

A reading from the Second Book of Kings.

In those days: Naaman the Syrian went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of Elisha, the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, 'Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none.' And Naaman urged Elisha to take it, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule-loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. R. cf. 2b

R: The LORD has shown his salvation to the nations.

1. O sing a new song to the LORD,
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **R.**
2. The LORD has made known his salvation,
has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth for the house of Israel. **R.**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song,
and sing out your praise. **R.**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful –
for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL 1 Thessalonians 5:18

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

In everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 17:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.' When he saw them he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, 'Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' And he said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful
with the sacrificial offerings,
that, through these acts of devotedness,
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.*

Or

*When the Lord appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord,
that, as you feed us with the nourishment
which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son,
so you may make us sharers of his divine nature.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.