

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

4th February 2024



I am the light of the World, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. John 8

This Sunday's Gospel continues with the beginnings of Jesus' ministry but it shows Jesus' realisation of the true depth of his calling. St Mark's Gospel has shown Jesus carrying out single acts—a single exorcism in the synagogue and a single act of healing in his friend's home. Then Jesus does the same thing on a much larger scale. The private home becomes a public space, as Jesus heals and casts out unclean spirits for the *many* who come to Simon's door.

In these times, many of us have looked to see who we can help or how we can share God's love with others. Whatever your purpose is, however God calls you to serve, it's going to take some practice on a small scale before you can be effective on a large scale. When we start small, we give ourselves a chance to develop our gifts and refine our understanding of the purpose God has in mind for us, before we can grow and develop the ministry we are given.

So if you want to know your purpose, the plan God had in mind for you from before time began, now would be a perfect time to start asking God to show it to you. Jesus calls us to get close to him, to focus on what God wants more than what others are clamouring to get from us. Jesus offers to help us silence the demons that keep trying to prevent us from living out our purpose.

And Christ encourages us to start small, with the one person he puts in front of us each day who needs to know Jesus. For that person, *you may be the only Jesus they will ever meet.*



This week let us pray for:

- ◆ strength and support for all those facing difficulties;
- ◆ all those who are ill and unwell;
- ◆ all those who want to help, that they may have the courage;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



February 11th is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick :

*Accept the prayers we offer
for our brothers and sisters
who are ill,
that, having been anxious
for them in their danger,
we may rejoice
at their recovery of health. Amen*

*For each step that I might take,
Be my guide, O Lord of life.
For each load that I might bear,
Be my strength, O Lord of life.
For each mountain I might face,
Be my power, O Lord of life.
For each river that might impede,
Be my safety, O Lord of life.
For each place where I might rest,
Be my peace, O Lord of life.
For each sunrise and sunset,
Be my joy, O Lord of life.*

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!"

St. Catherine of Siena