

Thursday 14 January 2021

Today is Thursday 14 January, in the First Week of Ordinary Time.

Bifrost Arts sing, 'O God will you restore us?'

Today's reading is from the Gospel of Mark.

Mark 1: 40 – 45

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

Jesus reached out to the man. The man believed in Jesus and knew he could heal him. There are many such stories in the Bible that we know well. Jesus was good at healing people.

The scripture says that Jesus felt sorry for the man. But he did more than empathise and feel his pain. He did something about it. He acted.

Turning our feelings into practical action is one expression of solidarity. Jesus was good at finding ways to be with and support people and was a living expression of solidarity. He said yes, despite the pain and trouble. He became human, lived and died for us – there can be no greater sign of solidarity. What does this stir in you, particularly in light of the situation we find ourselves in in the world at the moment?

As you listen again, put yourself in the position of Jesus. How does this feel?



Can you ask God to help you say “yes” today. Yes to you God, yes to those around us that we might live more in solidarity with others.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.