

**5TH SUNDAY
ORD TIME
YR B 2018
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FEBRUARY**

The Parish of St James



Coorparoo.

**An Augustinian Parish:
Archdiocese of Brisbane.**



From the Prioory Window

Last Friday an 'anointing mass' was held in this church. When we pray for those who are sick and ask God's mercy, we are doing an act of mercy. However, the hoped-for healing is not the end-goal of our prayer or of God's action. Jesus says it plainly in today's Gospel. His purpose is to preach the good news.

When we or our loved one get sick, good news is knowing that we are not alone. We cannot enjoy the ordinary pleasures of life, and we are separated from our circle of friends. Illness disconnects us from life and from our community, and it isolates us from the world.

Remembering the sick and visiting them restores that connection. It brings people who are sick, even if they are not physically present, back into the heart and minds of the community. And when a cure is not possible, we can continue to preach Jesus' good news for our loved ones—they will never be alone in their suffering.

The Mass for the anointing of the sick held last Friday made Christ present to our sick via the hands and feet of the St James' parishioners who were present to pray and to serve refreshments.

Today's Gospel Mk 1:29-39.

"On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went....to Simon's mother in law.... took her by the hand and helped her up.....

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils.....and he cured many.....

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there."

Question of the Week.

Who has taken you by the hand and helped you when you needed it? Who could you 'take by the hand' this week?

Did You Know?

- In Capernaum, archaeological excavations have uncovered a house, close by the synagogue, which has ancient inscriptions suggesting it was the house of Peter.
- The Jewish Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and lasts until sunset on Saturday. As the day of God's rest, work was not permitted. That is why Jesus only begins his work of healing after sunset.
- Capernaum was a thriving town and was a centre for the local fishing industry.

Fr Peter osa

Parish Administrator.