

God Speaks Only To The Good In Us.

Feb 6

One of the striking things about the great figures of the Old and New Testament is their sense of their own unworthiness. They had no illusions about how great they were. Even though God had chosen them to do great things – to be prophets, wise leaders – they were painfully aware that they were not perfect.

In the first reading this Sunday, the prophet Isaiah had a profound sense of his own unworthiness in the presence of God. He sensed a vast chasm between his own uncleanness and the holiness of the Lord of heaven. "I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts." St Paul regarded himself as one who had done wrong. "I am the least of the apostles," he tells the people of Corinth. "In fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle."

In the Gospel, Peter also feels intensely unworthy in the presence of Jesus. Overcome by what Jesus has done, he falls at his feet and says, "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man."

These prophets and apostles saw themselves as unworthy servants of God. They were all too aware of their sinfulness. But they knew something else too: that God had not called them because they were perfect. Rather, God had called them in spite of their imperfections. God had chosen them even though they were sinners. God saw the goodness in them, their potential, and that was enough for God. And those prophets and apostles went on to do great things. Knowing that God was one with them, filled with God's spirit, given that encouragement, they went out and preached God's word, they witnessed to God's plan, even undergoing martyrdom. **Potential** This Sunday's readings hold two lessons for us. First, God always sees the potential in us. Sometimes we focus on the things we don't like about ourselves, our faults, our failings. We can see ourselves as weak links, even as failures. In our celebrity-obsessed culture, young people especially can look at themselves and think they don't measure up.

Sometimes too, as individuals or as a society, we can see others as weak links. We look down on or judge individuals or groups of people. We see only their faults, their downsides, only what we think is wrong with them or infer-

or about them. Isn't that what racism is about? Why Hitler targeted Jews? Why as a society we could so easily confine people to Magdalene laundries or industrial schools? Why in school or college or the workplace or neighbourhood, we pick on the person who is different? But in the eyes of God, no one is inferior. God has created each of us in God's own image and likeness and God doesn't create failures. Created in God's own likeness, we can't be weak links – no matter who we are, or how we look, or how smart we are. And we are called to see ourselves the way God sees us and to see others the way God sees them.

The second reading is to acknowledge, like Isaiah, Paul and Peter, that we are not perfect. We are always a work in progress. But the wonderful thing is, unworthy as we are, God loves us anyway. Weak though we are, God has chosen us to be his followers. Sinful though we may be, he has called us to be his witnesses. We acknowledge this in the prayers of the Mass, in the words we say before communion: "Lord, I am not worthy... but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

God speaks only to the good in us. We must speak only to the good in ourselves and those around us.



Thirty years ago, Saint John Paul II instituted the [World Day of the Sick](#) to encourage the people of God, Catholic health institutions and Civil society to be increasingly attentive to the sick and to those who care for them. The Message of Pope Francis for the 30th World Day of prayer for the Sick celebrated on the 11th February 2022, is entitled "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Lk6:36). Jesus' invitation to be merciful like the Father - writes the Pope - has particular significance for healthcare workers. I think of all those physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, the support staff and the caretakers of the sick, as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer". People who have made their service a mission. Because Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father". The Pontiff recalls "the progress that medical science has made, especially in recent times; new technologies have made it possible to prepare therapies that are of great benefit to the sick; research continues to make a valuable contribution to eliminating old and new pathologies; rehabilitation medicine has greatly expanded its expertise and skills. None of this, however, must make us forget the uniqueness of each patient, his or her dignity and frail-

Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sun 5th	7pm	Parish Intentions
Mon. 7th	10 am	Deceased members
Tues 8th	10 am	
Fri 11th	10 am	World day of the Sick
Sat 12th	7pm	
Knockea		
Sun 6th	11am	
Wed 9th	10am	
Fri 11th	7.30	Molly Keane (1st)
Sun 13th	11am	
Roxboro		



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ing and caring for all life, even the most fragile, from its beginning until its natural end. He concludes by recalling the indispensable service of the health care ministry, especially in spiritual assistance to the sick, and the commitment that each of us should have in making ourselves close to those who suffer. Because "the ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus: "I was sick and you visited me" (Mt 25:36)". **Recently deceased** Our Prayers and sympathy to Marian Sheahan on the death of her brother Donal Farrelly Clondalkin Dublin, to the family of Joan Greensmyth and the family of Tony O'Reilly, Ballyneety Ballinacurra. Limerick . May they rest in Peace **Weekly Lotto** €2,500 winning No.6.10.13.22.No winner. lucky dip. 1. Rosari Skehan 2. Dalach Carey 3. David O'Neill 4. Fionnuala Wallace 5. Tom Kennedy 6. Melissa Lynch Next Jackpot €2,600 Draw Tues.8th Feb 9.30pm Four Elms Thank you.

ties". However, He issues a warning and calls for the patient to always be treated as a person with his own dignity. "None of this, however, must make us forget the uniqueness of each patient, his or her dignity and frailties. Patients are always more important than their diseases, and for this reason, no therapeutic approach can prescind from listening to the patient, his or her history, anxieties and fears. Even when healing is not possible, care can always be given. It is always possible to console, it is always possible to make people sense a closeness that is more interested in the person than in his or her pathology". The Holy Father reaffirms the importance of Catholic healthcare institutions and their commitment to caring for and treating people. "At a time in which the culture of waste is widespread and life is not always acknowledged as worthy of being welcomed and lived, these structures, like "houses of mercy", can be exemplary in protect-

