

# Trinity News

## Epiphany VI The Sacred in the Ordinary Every Day

The gospel for this Sunday is Mark 1:29-39. The central passage is about the healing of the Peter's mother in law at her home in Capernaum. This home is said to be the home of Peter and Andrew. Jesus hears that the woman has a fever. He goes in to her in her room. He is no doubt led in by her helpers. He takes her by the hand and lifts her up so that she can resume her normal place in the house. The grasp of the hand of the woman by the Healer and the action of lifting her up heals her of what could have been a life-threatening fever. She begins to wait on them as a sign of her healing and also her gratitude by showing the proper hospitality. The interest in Peter's family is significant at this early stage of the gospel. It is still thought by some scholars that the reminiscences of Peter stand behind some of the personal details about Jesus in Mark's Gospel. Mark had not walked in Galilee with Jesus as far as we know and he needed the support of people who had been around Jesus in order to link up with the oral traditions that he had heard about Jesus when he came to believe in the Christ. We should not forget that Mark is a writer and that writers depend a great deal not only on their own observations but also on the observations and experiences of others. When we write words, a multitude of aspects from our life experiences pour into the shaping of the letters of each word.

Jesus had a great capacity for seeing the sacred in the ordinary. That is, he did not exclude God from any moment of his life. "Sacred" in this sense means the presence of God, what Rudolf Otto called "The numinous", an almost imperceptible and yet totally convincing sense of God's interest in us and what is happening around us. Jesus was so detached from his ego that he saw the needs of the other person first before he even began to consider his own reactions. He had called Peter and Andrew but he may not have been in this house before and he may not have met the mother before. We are all afraid in some sense of what we do not know. It is far more comfortable walking into a house where the hosts are known to us than walking into a house where we know very little about them. We may even have heard negative things about them, but I have learned over the years not to take much notice of such advice until I have met the people myself. Gossip about people is a poor source of information. It is surely helpful to make a habit of turning off when someone starts prattling on about another person in a negative way with no indication from us that we would like to even listen to such stuff.

The Sacred comes in the next issue that we have to deal with every day. The God of Israel “neither slumbers nor sleeps” (Psalm 121:4). The God of Israel in this text is the God of everyone. We do not see God being limited to Israel for us. Jesus is the universal pilgrim. He comes from God and he goes to God. “Faith comes to us a risk at the time. As each day unfolds, we are able to see the risk that faith has brought us to” and whether or not we have the courage to trust God’s care for us. The quoted words come from Julia Cameron’s beautiful book *Faith and Will*. Her book runs to 221 pages and it has one chapter! I like Cameron’s words, “Courage is a side effect of faith. When we ask for more faith we are automatically given more courage”. It also takes faith and trust and courage to accept and live what we are told by the voice of God in Deuteronomy 31:6, “It is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you”.

Bishop Arthur Jones

### THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, February 11.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group Discussion, 7:30am, Parish Office

Thursday, February 12.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

### NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Psalm 42; 1 Corinthians 9:24-47; Mark 1:40-45

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**February 17. PANCAKE SUPPER**, 5:30pm-7:30pm. Tickets are available @ the Parish Office: P250-adults; P150-children (6-12 yrs. old); FREE-children (0-5 yrs.) *Cash donations are also sought to help defray the expenses.*

**February 18. ASH WEDNESDAY.** Eucharist 10:00am & 7:00pm

**Congratulations to the newly elected vestry members:**

Simon Bewlay, Debbie Fitch, Oliver Gusé, Kenneth Keng,  
Ramon Laconico, Jocelyn Pick & William Staub