### SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
19th February 2012

**First Reading:** Isaiah 43:18-19,21-22,24-25

**Responsorial Psalm** Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

**Second Reading:** St Paul to Corinthians 1:18-22

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia Alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 2:1-12

### MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

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**Baptisms**
Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

**Marriages**
(6 months notice) Arranged by appointment.

(Enquiries and information brochure available from Parish Office)

**Reconciliation**
Celebrated at 5.30pm on Saturday or by appointment with the Priest.

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**WELCOME**
St Ambrose Parish community warmly welcomes visitors and new parishioners. We invite new parishioners to fill in a card found on the table at the church entrance and place it on the collection plate. A member of the Parish will visit you as soon as possible.
COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make arrangements.

WE PRAY FOR...

Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick, especially all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them. We pray today for all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries are at this time, especially Yvonne Pettengale, Bernard Holgate and Kathleen Fitzgerald and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God. May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

CHRUCH ROSTERS

| Reader          | February 18th | John Keating       |
|                | February 19th | Julian Fraser & Allan Hebb |
|                | February 25th | Elaine Dugdale Walker |
|                | February 26th | Ted Bartels        |
| Special Minister| February 18th | Pat McHenry         |
|                | February 19th | Vicky Carrick & Bruna Bombig |
|                | February 25th | Angela Grinton     |
|                | February 26th | Patty McKibbin & Eileen French |
| Church Cleaning | February 20th | Parish Office       |
|                | February 27th | Chris Van Order & Frances Bowen |
| Church Flowers  | February 24th | Parish Office       |
|                | March 2nd     | Parish Office       |

COLLECTIONS

Presbytery Collection (1st collection)
{This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.} $478

Church (envelopes) collection
{This collection covers the Church capital costs, and on going maintenance.}

ARCHDIOCESE MASS TIMES

If you need to know the Mass times at another Parish in our Archdiocese you can now access them via the internet. All parishes are listed at: www.cam.org.au/

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus returns to his home town, where he is greeted joyfully by the people. He is preaching the Good News to them when a man unable to help himself is brought by friends for healing. Forgiveness of sins and physical healing are all the same to Jesus. He knows what the scribes are thinking, and challenges them to consider the source of his authority.

VOCATION VIEW

In today’s Gospel, people have difficulty believing that Jesus can forgive sins. Is God asking you to forgive the sins of His people as His ordained priest? Are you called to bring Good News to the poor? Say “yes” to God’s call.

MONDAY AT THE MANOR

Call in at Judy and John Wills’ house at Lot 6, Adam Close, around midday this Monday for a sandwich and a chat. Everyone welcome.

Anyone needing transport
**ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES**
These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had much wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’S world.

In our unity with God lies our strength. 10/8/1874

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**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2012**
Preparations are starting now for this year's sacramental program. If you know anyone wishing to join our Reconciliation, Eucharistic or Confirmation groups this year then they need to contact us.

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**BAPTISM**
Today we welcome into our Parish and Christian community Ruby Grace Batson daughter of Mitchell and Lisa. May God bless their family always.

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**PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY**
Your donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion give expression to the Gospel imperative to pursue justice and help those suffering from poverty and disadvantage.
Please take home a project Compassion box and/or a set of Lenten envelopes and give generously to the appeal this Lent. Your donations allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to alleviate poverty and bring hope and justice.

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**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**
A combined Church Service for the World Day of Prayer will be held at St Ambrose Parish Church on Friday 2nd March 2012 at 7.00pm. The theme this year is ‘Let justice prevail’ prepared by the WDP Committee of Malaysia. All welcome to attend.

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**CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB**
The catholic Book Club, in association with the Central Catholic Bookshop, invites you to join our monthly meetings—anyone interested in reading and discussing Catholic books is welcome.
Friday 24th February we will be discussing F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby”.
Caroline Chisholm Library, 3rd floor, Mitchell House, North West corner of Lonsdale & Elizabeth Streets. Melbourne (Entry door in Lonsdale St) As Main door is locked after hours, latecomers call 96701815.

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**FR ROBERT BARRON**
Fr Robert Barron is in Melbourne to launch his groundbreaking Catholic documentary on 4-5 March. Australian Catholic University will host a visit from this prominent US theologian. Fr Barron is the creator and host of CATHOLICISM, a groundbreaking ten-part documentary series and study program about the Catholic faith.

**Sunday 4th March**
3pm: Harman Lecture at John Paul II Institute 278 Victoria Pde, East Melbourne
7.30pm: Theology in the Pub at Pumphouse Hotel 128 Nicholson St Fitzroy.

**Monday 5th March**
9.30am: Talk & screening for all Melbourne Catholic Agencies at the Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne
7.30pm: Theology Lecture, at ACU St Patrick’s Campus, 115 Victoria Pde Fitzroy
Further Information: www.wordonfire.org/; www.catholicismseries.com/

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**BREAKFAST BRIEFING**
Protecting Victoria’s Vulnerable Children Tuesday 6th March, 7.15am –8.45am
Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) invites members and friends to hear keynote speaker Bill Scales AO, Member of the Protecting Victoria’s Vulnerable Children Inquiry at the Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne.
Entry: $20, payable at door.
RSVP: Friday 2nd March to lucia.brick@css.org.au or 92875566
First Reading  Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

1. Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak, The Lord will save him in the day of trouble. (R.)
2. The Lord will help him on his bed of sickness, and will not give him up to the will of the foe. (R.)
3. If you uphold me I shall be unharmed and set in your presence for evermore. (R.)

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 40:2-5, 13-14. R. v.5
(R.) Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

1. Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak, The Lord will save him in the day of evil, will guard him, give him life, make him happy in the land and will not give him up to the will of his foes. (R.)
2. The Lord will help him on his bed of pain, he will bring him back from sickness to health. As for me, I said: ‘Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul for I have sinned against you.’ (R.)
3. If you uphold me I shall be unharmed and set in your presence for evermore. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel from age to age. Amen. (R.)

Second Reading  2 Cor 1:18-22
A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The son of God, Jesus Christ, was not yet and no: in him it is always yes. I swear by God’s truth, there is no Yes and No about what we say to you. The Son of God, the Christ Jesus that we proclaimed among you - I mean Silvanus and Timothy and I - was never Yes and No: with him it was always Yes, and however many the promises God made, the Yes to them all is in him. That is why it is “through him” that we answer Amen to the praise of God. Remember it is God himself who assures us all, and you, of our standing in Christ, and has anointed us marking us with his seal and giving us the pledge, the Spirit, that we carry in our hearts.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation  See Lk 4:18
Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

Gospel  Mk 2:1-12
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, word went round that he was back; and so many people collected that there was no room left, even in front of the door. He was preaching the word to them when some people came bringing him a paralytic carried by four men, but as the crowd made it impossible to get the man to him, they stripped the roof over the place where Jesus was; and when they had made an opening, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralytic lay. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, ‘My child, your sins are forgiven.’ Now some scribes were sitting there, and they thought to themselves, “How can this man talk like that? He is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins but God?” Jesus, inwardly aware that this was what they were thinking, said to them, ‘Why do you have these thoughts in your hearts? Which of these is easier: to say to the paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven” or to say, “Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk”? But to prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,’ - he said to the paralytic - ‘I order you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go off home.’ And the man got up, picked up his stretcher at once and walked out in front of everyone, so that they were all astounded and praised God saying, ‘We have never seen anything like this.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection
by Greg Sunter

Jesus has returned to Capernaum – probably staying again at Simon Peter’s house. When the crowd in the house becomes too much, four men climb onto the roof, lift up a portion of the flat roofing and lower their paralysed friend down to Jesus. It is interesting that it is ‘seeing their faith’ that moves Jesus to act. It is not the faith of the paralysed man himself but rather the faith of his friends and supporters that prompts Jesus to respond. This is an important lesson in the value of community faith.

Interestingly, rather than telling the man that he is healed, Jesus tells him that his sins are forgiven. Perhaps this is related to Jesus responding to the faith of the man’s friends rather than his own faith. Perhaps the man was oppressed by his own sense of sin and could not act out of faith. The contemporary wisdom was that any physical affliction was the result of sin and was the punishment of God for sinful behaviour. Jesus consistently challenged this thinking and so it is all the more striking that his first words were to forgive the man’s sins. Regardless of the reason, these words create scandal amongst the Scribes – obviously there checking Jesus out. Jesus uses their reaction as a wonderful teaching moment. Forgiveness is so much easier than physical healing and yet it was something that the established authorities were loathe to do – they preferred to keep people repressed by their sin rather than freeing them through forgiveness. To demonstrate the inner change made by forgiveness of the man’s sin, Jesus performs an observable physical healing to prove his point: only through an inner change of heart are external changes possible. Jesus demonstrates for the scandalised Scribes that he has the power and authority to both heal and forgive sins in God’s name.

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The Feast of the Chair of St Peter commemorates St Peter’s founding of the Church of Antioch, as well as his role as the first bishop of Rome. The portable chair believed to have been used by St Peter himself, is preserved at the Vatican above the apsidal altar of St Peter’s Basilica. In ancient times it was customary for teachers to sit while teaching their students, who would stand around them. Even in the early church, bishops would give the homily seated, with the congregation standing as they listened. And so it is that the celebration of St Peter’s Chair is a remembrance of his role as both teacher and bishop.

Finish the story of Jesus and the crippled man by adding the missing words and pictures.

A crowd of people came to see Jesus at his home.

A crippled man and his friends could not get past the crowd, so they made a hole in the roof.

They lowered the crippled man through a _ _ _ in the roof.

Draw Jesus’ house

Draw the men on the roof

Draw the crippled man

Draw the people questioning Jesus

Draw the healed man standing up

Wordsearch
Try to find these words:

crippled crowd forgive four praised friend hole roof teacher

Finish the story of Jesus and the crippled man by adding the missing words and pictures.

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