

LIVING FAITH  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY  
TIME, YEAR B



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

FEBRUARY 4, 2018



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY  
Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

## TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

In the Gospel today, Jesus heals a woman. The description of the way that He does this is really significant: "He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up."

Jesus continues to take people by the hand and lift them up. How? We are the hands of Jesus today. When we reach out to our neighbours or to people who are suffering or in need, we take them by the hand and lift them up. In fact, this is the job of the followers of Jesus, the Church, today. We are called to take people by the hand, and lift them up.

How do we do this? Sometimes all it takes is a kind word. Sometimes it takes a smile. Sometimes it means sharing a lunch with someone. Sometimes it means bringing your gently-used clothing to a store that will sell them.

- How can you be the hands of Jesus in your home, school or place of work?
- What is one thing you can do to take someone by the hand and lift them up?

# Locating Scripture passages



## The Bible and You

God speaks to us in many ways. One way God speaks to us is through the Bible. The Bible is the most important book in Christian life because it is God's message, or revelation. The Bible is the story of God's promise to care for us, especially through his Son, Jesus. At Mass we hear stories from the Bible. We can also read the Bible on our own. The Bible is not just one book; it is a collection of many books. The writings in the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by many different authors using different styles.

The New Testament contains 27 books that tell the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and the experience of the early Christians. For Christians the most important books of the New Testament are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Many of the 27 books are letters written by leaders such as Saint Paul.

Each Sunday Catholics listen to four pieces of scripture: First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading and Gospel. How can you find a passage in the Bible?

Bible passages are identified by book, chapter, and verse, for example, Ex 3:1-4. The name of the book comes first. It is often in abbreviated form. Your Bible's table of contents will help you determine what the abbreviation means. In our example, Ex stands for Exodus. After the name of the book, there are two numbers. The first one identifies the chapter, which in our example is chapter three; it is followed by a colon. The second number identifies the verse or verses, which in our example are verses one to four.

Adapted from:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/scripture-and-tradition/scripture/bible-and-you-finding-bible-passages>

*Try looking up next Sunday's scripture passages as a family:*

*First Reading: **Leviticus 13: 1-2, 45-46***

*Psalm: **Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11***

*Second Reading: **1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1***

*Gospel: **Mark 1:40-45***

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# THE CHURCH TEACHES

## CARE FOR EARTH, OUR COMMON HOME

“LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs”.

This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. (*Laudato Si’*, #1-2)



### 10 SIMPLE THINGS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN DO...

1. Take your family outdoors for a walk; talk to them about the joy of being in green, clean, preserved places.
2. When you are outside, pick up your rubbish and teach your kids that, just as they do not litter at home, they should act the same in our “global home”.
3. Have a garden and teach your kids to care for the garden. If you live in an apartment building, have pot plants and take care of them.
4. Every year, plant new things in your garden.
5. When you go camping, put out your fire properly. Be careful with cigarettes and fire in the bush.
6. Have a compost bin and put your organic waste in it.
7. When you fish, make sure you follow the rules of fishing. The rules are there to protect the
8. Turn off the lights when they are not needed.
9. Avoid long showers.
10. Use water-saving appliances. Consider the water rating before you buy.

# NOTHING ORDINARY ABOUT ORDINARY TIME THE ASSOCIATION FOR NEW CANADIANS LIFTING PEOPLE UP



## TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR VOLUNTEER:

### **Street address:**

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St. John's, NL A1C 5R6

### **Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 2031, Station C  
St. John's, NL A1C 5R6

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**Website:** <http://ancnl.ca>



**The Association for New Canadians** is a non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to the provision of settlement and integration services for immigrants and refugees. For over 35 years, the Association has delivered programs and services designed to support all aspects of newcomer integration, ranging from settlement information and orientation, to language learning, skills development and employment.

Relying on an experienced and dedicated team of employees, supported by more than 100 volunteers, the Association offers the following programs and services:

- Resettlement Assistance Program
- Settlement, Orientation and Integration Services
- Language Training and Assessment Services
- Distance ESL Programs
- Volunteer Connections Program
- Settlement Workers in the Schools Program
- AXIS Career Services
- Targeted Programming for Children, Youth, Women and Men
- Diversity Training/Public Education Projects
- Support Services (Childminding, Daycare, Transportation, Interpretation)
- Capacity Building Projects

### **MISSION**

The mission of the Association for New Canadians is to settle and integrate newcomers, and to empower them with the skills, knowledge and information necessary to become independent, contributing members of the community and country.

### **VISION**

The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador is a welcoming community where newcomers can easily integrate into the social and economic fabric, where their contributions are recognized by the greater population and where they feel comfortable settling for an extended period.