

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS FOR  
**ORDINARY TIME**

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Sunday 11 February | 2024



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**  
— VICARIATE FOR FAITH & MISSION —

## Reflections on the Readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2024

### Gospel Reading – Mark 1:40-45

Understandable fear of infection meant that anyone with a skin complaint was banished to the fringes of any town or village (further details are given in our First Reading, below). Theirs was a terrible existence of complete isolation (perhaps in the company of other fellow sufferers) until such time as the illness was overcome and a cure had been officially recognised by the religious authorities. As with other miracles he performed, Jesus is restoring this man to his family, friends and work. Such, however, is the excitement caused by this cure that he has to lie low. Ironically, Jesus has himself become the outcast!

### First Reading – Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Chapters 13 & 14 of the book of Leviticus outline in great, and graphic, detail how anyone with a skin complaint was to be treated – brutally, as we hear in this extract. Without access to antiseptics, let alone more modern medicines, people in the general population had to be very careful. Prudence demanded the draconian restrictions set out here. The life of the leper was one of utter misery.

### Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

This passage summarises the argument that St Paul has built up over the Readings of the last few weeks. The crucial point is that everything is done in such a way that as many people as possible will be brought to faith in Christ, and hence Salvation. This has been his way of engaging in ministry. It is the way Jesus engaged in his own ministry. Now, he instructs the people in the community at Corinth to do the same, “Take me for your model, as I take Christ.”

*‘..... and people came to him from every quarter.’*



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