

# TRINITY NEWS

## **Pentecost 21 The Ten Lepers Luke 17: 11-19 The Gift of Inclusion**

The text cites a Samaritan amongst ten lepers who stood at a distance and called for Jesus to cleanse and heal mind, heart, and body. The Samaritan was excluded from the Assembly of Israel because he was racially and culturally impure. But amongst lepers, they were all impure. There is a kinship amongst those who have been declared unclean by others. If we have a bad back and talk about it, we will soon have company from others who say, "Yes, that's what I have." If you have been broken in relationships, you will soon encounter others with a similar weight of heartbreak still recalled.

Lepers among lepers belonged to the same society of the condemned. One more exclusion barely counted. But the one who was a Samaritan had a double reason to be thankful. He was accepted and he was healed. "Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power" as an old hymn has it. It was a "double cure" for the Samaritan. The others didn't turn back to say thanks to Jesus, but he came and fell before Jesus with a heart full of joy.

Jesus may not have needed his thanks or the thanks of those who withheld it, but they needed it. Saying "thank you", blesses the one who says it as much or more than the one who receives it. True appreciation blesses both parties.

The note of trust is critical in the approach of the lepers. They have no chance to formulate faith, but they trust in what they know of the healer from Nazareth. We also have to trust in all that we know of Jesus in formulating the underlying theses and intellectual underpinnings of the Christian faith. For Christian thinkers right now there is also a gap in traditional approaches and the need to reconfigure on the basis of Scripture and traditions drawn from Scripture to meet present challenges.

The wider intellectual climate in the Church and in Politics has in many ways stagnated and given way to power figures and dominant personalities. It has lost some of the drive that came from the European use of Greek rationalism and emerging intellectual patterns in the East. Rank individualism has its limits because it lacks connections and cultural ties. We need fresh approaches.

The ten lepers standing a little away from Jesus pose questions for later generations: what connected them? What can we access now that satisfies our hunger for truth within our cultural milieu? What are the intellectual markers of our time? A science-only approach has failed us emotionally and psychologically. It is indifferent to our internal rumblings and the power of fantasy and imagination. Freud and Jung's analyses of dreams relied on archetypal symbols that didn't always connect with every day realities of life. There is always a distance in much of our thinking from Heidegger's intricately woven analyses of Being. Being thrown into the world does not mean that we have the tools to comprehend it all. Heidegger made a valiant attempt. What did the lepers make of their world? It was survive or die for them. "Look for a healer", they said. "Avoid the critics and hate merchants at all costs. Hide in caves and avoid the risk of any close contact with anyone except other lepers." There was nowhere for them to go except to explore the extremities of their situation. Their survival mode, though extreme, has some connection with our present situation. We fear death and partly distrust the former foundations of our lives, and we have much to learn from these encounters with Jesus. He opens up new dimensions of thought woven from past history and traditions and creates new paradigms in the process.

What he is teaching and doing is connected to the reconfiguring of the internal dimension of human reasoning that is going on within him. It issues in healing and fresh hope, which we are all looking for in so many ways.

**What aspect of your life needs healing at this time? We put our trust in scientific analyses which are great for biological matters. Emotional and life identification matters are quite another matter. We know intuitively where to look, deep within, but that requires Inner Work in order to open up the real solutions for our needs of meaning and self-identification and emotional peace.**  
**Bishop Arthur Jones**

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**THIS WEEK:**

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

Genesis 32:3-8, 22-30; Psalm 121;  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8a

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE.**

*I publish the Banns of Marriage between*

**TANYA LINGGON BALIAO**

*of Pasay City*

*and*

**MIGUEL ANTONIO AYUYAO**

**VERGEL DE DIOS**

*of Makati City.*

*If any of you know just cause why they  
may not be joined together in Holy  
Matrimony, you are bidden to declare it.  
This is the **second** time of asking.*

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**ON SALE!** Copies of a book entitled "*With Bigger Eyes and Heart in Head: Being Anglican in Post-Windsor Time*" are now available from Bishop Joel Pachao at the Diocesan Office in Baguio City, or through the Prime Bishop's Office in Quezon City. This is written by The Rt. Rev. Artemio Zabala, who currently serves as a retired bishop in residence in the Diocese of Los Angeles. Proceeds from the sale of this book will go to a mission fund in Baguio to support initiatives for development of lay ministry of Anglicans.

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