



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF
BOGNOR REGIS AND SLINDON

We are followers of Jesus, on fire with his love,
sharing that love with each other and with the world.

Jesus Heals Many

All the content below is for you to make your own, please do read through it, pick what would work best for your children and would best engage them. Ill be praying for your family and you this coming week!

Kathryn Bevan

We gather

Today, in today's Mark's Gospel we hear about Jesus healing people who were sick. They went to him and he made them better, revealing God's love and care for us. Who makes you feel better when you are sick?

Before you listen to the Gospel take a moment to reflect on any times in the past week when you have not followed Jesus' way and have been unkind, or not thoughtful of others in your family and say sorry.

We listen

A reading from the Gospel of Mark (1:29-39)

Jesus and his disciples, including James and John, left the synagogue and went straight to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and as soon as Jesus arrived, he was told about her. He went to her, took her by the hand, and helped her up. The fever left her, and she began to wait on them.

After the sun had set and evening had come, people brought to Jesus all the sick and those who had demons. All the people of the town gathered in front of the house. Jesus healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases and drove out many demons. He would not let the demons say anything, because they knew who he was.

Very early the next morning, long before daylight, Jesus got up and left the house. He went out of the town to a lonely place, where he prayed. But Simon and his companions went out searching for him, and when they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

But Jesus answered, "We must go on to the other villages round here. I have to preach in them also, because that is why I came."

So he travelled all over Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and driving out demons.



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We respond

Talk together about the story. What did you hear? Is there a particular bit that you liked, that you wondered about, or that you want to know more about?

Nobody's life is free from suffering and pain, and this year has been a difficult one for all of us in different ways. In the Gospel we hear about how Jesus went to the house of Simon Peter, where his mother-in-law was sick. He took her by the hand, helped her out of bed, and immediately she was better.

How did people feel when they heard that Jesus had healed the woman? How did they react?

News spread fast and soon crowds had gathered around the house, hoping that Jesus would heal them. Early the next morning Jesus quietly slipped away to spend time alone with his Father, in prayer. After praying with his Father, Jesus set off from Capernaum visiting many other towns and villages, healing people and preaching the Good News. Jesus cared for people and wanted to help them. He was able to make people well again because he is God's son. When people saw what he could do, they believed in him.

What do you think this story tells us about Jesus?

When was the last time that you were sick? How did you feel? Who helped you and made you feel better? What did they do to make you feel better?

During the last year we have all had to try to look after each other to stop coronavirus spreading. What have you done to help yourself and others stay well?

We can show people who are ill that we care about them by looking after them, taking them some food or drink, by sending them a card or letter in the post, by phoning them or perhaps by going to the shops for them if they can't get out. What will you do to show someone who is sick that you care this week?

This Gospel helps us to think about how gentle yet powerful God's love for us is, and how wonderful this love can be in our lives.



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Some activities you could try are:

Make a 'thinking of you card' for someone who needs cheering up this week.

Make a 'Helping hands wreath' - decorate the paper plate with verses and captions to recall how Jesus cared for others. On each hand, help children to write or draw ways to care for other people.



Make a 'Jesus heals hearts' hanging picture using a heart and plasters. Add words or verses to remember that Jesus heals our hearts.

Take a moment to pray together. As you do, look at your lit candle and think about the love that God has for you, as well as your own family.

'Lord, thank you for sending your son Jesus to show us how much you care for us. Please help us to care for and help others when they are sick. We pray for doctors, nurses and healthcare workers who look after the sick. Help us all to follow in your footsteps and show compassion and kindness to those around us. Amen.'