



## *Sunday of the Paralytic John 5:1-15*

*"... One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?"*

Why did Jesus pass by all the others and come to this man? (St John Chrysostom)

Why does Jesus make Himself known to people that no one else is noticing? To the people who have a low value of life? To those who are not able to come to Him because of their physical, psychological or emotional conditions? To those who are left aside, to those who were defeated by life and lie down in their sins? Even when healed, there is no guarantee that they will sin no more. On the contrary, there is the risk that they will get even worse. That's why Jesus warns him at the end, because the risk is real. Why is Jesus taking the risk and does not play safe? In the end, there was something really good in the heart of the paralytic. He had faith and endurance; why risk the reality of the good thing for something that has a low percentage rate of success? We know, from our human life experience, that after we have been made well, the tendency is to return to the place from which we were taken.

**"This is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."** 3rd Thursday after Pascha, John 6:40-44.

It is the will of the Father to reveal the Son to all those who live without hope, those who have no one to carry them, those who did not experience human kindness. Those who do not know what it means to be cared for. It is the will of the Father to manifest his Son within the reality that the human heart dismisses. Within the human reality for which men find no time and interest to spend. It is within this human reality that men dismiss and ignore that the resurrection touches first the fabric of our illness. We think that if there is no human will God does not act. He does not act against our will; He acts here in the absence of it. It is not for man to categorize and hierarchise when and how and to whom God should appear. Whatever categories we might think of: foreigners, gentiles, sinners, despised, enemies and so on. It is the will of the Father to reveal His Son to all. We should not act against His will like the "Jews" in the gospel but to see what is that to us. To see how we can return to a human reality that we dismissed and ignored, because that is where the resurrection is manifested.

**"Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man ..."**  
(today's gospel)

God enters within the reality of our illness out of love but with a question. He finds out that there is desire for healing within the reality abandoned by people, within the reality taken over by sin and illness. God answers to this desire of the human heart to be made well. That's why He takes the risk. He cannot neglect what people ignore. He acts in Truth, and there is Truth in the human desire to be made well. This is where His love can manifest itself, this is where His salvation can be prepared. We do not take time to be with people who seem to have lost it. We ignore the human reality that is disintegrating. We do not take time to be alone with God and that's why we do not see and do not hear the desire to be made well. This desire is not a fairy tale, it is a desire that is manifested in every human heart, either sinful, sick, without hope or an enemy to itself and to others. This is the human desire that shows us the desire of the Father. If we do not come close to it we cannot see the Son, we cannot believe.

### **What to expect ...**

On Thursday, early in the morning, I tried to spend some time on the stairs at the mission. It is something that I missed doing more lately. This is the time and place to meet the most afflicted people who come to us. This is where we can better see hope when our faith is challenged and questioned. I met a young person whom I had not seen before. He was talkative and eager to share. There was something light in relating with him even though anybody could see that he was deeply challenged by a drug addiction, as he was going to confess later. He talked about wanting to visit all these other countries around the world, but not go to Columbia. "Not there. It would not go well. I had a serious problem with cocaine." His stories were light and at times he mixed reality with some imagination or fantasy. Up to a point where the conversation changed. He was answering the question about moving from the States to Canada. He got married to a woman from here. They got married 3 months after having met. He discovered what it meant to love. "After 3 years she died and everything went downhill for me from there". "You will get the chance to find somebody else," an older lady who was having coffee on the stairs replied to him. "No, not for me". His eyes became full of tears. "No, she was the only person I loved. This was enough for me."

I did not ask the reason for her death or if he had an addiction problem before or not. Somehow all these other things became insignificant. We know at the mission how hard it is for a person who battles addictions to cry, especially when drugs are part of it. The love he experienced and still does was deeper within his heart than the harm brought about by drugs. One would not believe this would be possible. People go through life conquering and losing things many times, guarding their heart well, making a tomb out of it. And here, within a soul that would not care much about its own life, love was manifested. As we know, nothing was perfect, the burden of that love and the loss experienced are more visible than anything else. This appearance would make us stay away and not look for hope in a life that is deeply challenged. However, within this heart love manifested itself and was shown to us. He acquired a knowledge that cannot be bought but only experienced.

## Community life

- José and Cristina are leaving for Spain on Wednesday. We want to express our gratitude for all the good things they shared with us at the mission and we pray they will travel safely and come back in the fall with the same energy and desire to live a life among the poor.
- On Friday, Mihai helped us with the singing at the Liturgy. He traveled from outside the city changing trains and the TTC in order to make it to the mission at 7:00 am for the liturgy. Only because he wants to serve.
- Arsenio, Ruth and his family are still recovering from Covid. Please pray for them, as well as for Murray, Chris, Melanie and Mary who are also recovering.
- We started to teach catechesis on Saturdays for the young people. Talk to Fr Nicolaie if you are interested.
- On Friday we asked a question about darkness. How do we know about it - "A time when we are closer to Christ without knowing". Many answers were worth remembering. Eliana said that a drop of light changes the darkness, like a drop of cream changes the coffee. Linda said that she sleeps. "A laid down and slept for you are my helper"
- Mission church collections of 1 Sunday May 10 2022 :donations \$155,candle box \$5, candle/wine \$60

### **Prayer list for the sick and those who have recovered:**

*Br. Luke, Sister Penka, Fr Roberto, Mihaela, Chris, Melanie, Arsenio, Ruth, Jonathan, Daniel, Murray, Kristian and Frank; Maria ; Binja ; Mike; Luke; Anusia ; Lavalin's son; Sana ; Father George Patrick, and Father Michael Miklos/Pani Karen Miklos; Dominique and her daughter; Mike; Luke; Arjuna; Joy; Susie; Alex; Lynn; Molly; Varghese; Delia; Leela; Mary; Tanya; Basma; Fatima; Debbie; Thomas; Alex; Fathima; Frank; Chris; Evlokia; Mikayla and Luca; Karunawathi, Gloria, Vijekumari, Ronda, and Regina; Delia; Valerie; Tom; Traian; Peter; Marco; Kim; Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark; Sana, and her family in Egypt. Isaiah; Mary; Sydney; Peter Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip Hadler and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Silvia, Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain; Seena and her husband; Waheeda and children; Faizah; Shirin and her family; Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia ; Ragaie; Victoria; Mike.Farida; Roselyne and family ; Ana, Cornelia; Leon to Jerry; Ocean;Gloria, Anne, Marina, Marie, Edemene; Joanna and family; Rejoice;Romana, Coline, Michael, Peter, Henry, George, Kelly;Tom; Marina;Kumari;Susan;child James; Aaron; Sylvia;Fr Jonathan;Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia;Amy; Swetha and children; Charitha; Jitesh's parents; Demene; Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Fr. John and Pani Marie; Lynn; Michelle; Emanuel(Mani); Stefanie; Geoff;Joey; Evangelia; Sophia; Melanie; Césare;Tanya; Piper; Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral; Brenda; Vol; Gomaz; ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa.*

**Please pray for the deceased:** *Andre; Andr ee; Akhir; Arjuna; Dillon; Elena; Pani Mary; Rejoice`s mother; Edmund; Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; Fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre; Stela; William; Samuel; Debbie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin`s cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene, Joice, BettyAnn, James, Pauanasuy Kamthasang, Maria, Andrei, Agostina, Carminda, Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother, Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew , Demene's mother, Dalalzaki.*

*This time is swift, the struggle is great, and my sickness severe, reducing me nearly to immovability. What then is left but to pray to God?*

(St Gregory the Theologian)



There is a reality of prayer that is different within a heart that is lying down on its bed because of an illness. People who make more visits to the hospital say that you can experience this yourself if you take time to stay close to those who are sick and cannot move. This time should not be short, but not too long either. It needs to witness the presence of prayer . To witness the presence of the One to whom the sick person is praying. Those who do that say that at times, the gratitude of the one who prays is shown within the tears they shed. A sign from Christ that the prayer is heard and received.

We are not of our own. We are of God.

## May 16-22

<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 am 7:30pm	Morning Prayer Psalms Study – via Zoom	<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am 12:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Paschal Hours Paschal Hours Vespers/Dinner Divine Liturgy
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Paschal Hours Paschal Hours Paschal Hours	<b>Friday</b>	7:00 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Orthros Paschal Hours Paschal Hours
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 am Noon	Paschal Hours Paschal Hours	<b>Sunday</b>	6:00 am 7:00 am 8:30 am	Jesus Prayer Orthros Divine Liturgy



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We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor"  
under the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

St. Silouan Chapel, May 15, 2022

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