

## Reflection for Saturday 26 June

The Gospel reading for this morning's Mass is from St Matt. 9 vs5-17 and the theme is healing.

The first part of the reading is about the healing by Jesus of the centurion's servant. The second part is about the healing of Peter's mother-in-law.

But the important thing to notice about Jesus's healing is that faith in him is always preconditional. The faith may be that of the person seeking healing or an interested party as in the case of today's Gospel. Most of Jesus's healing miracles take place as a result of the person asking healing from him.

Why is healing so important? Healing is a fundamental part of Jesus's ministry. It is about wholeness. It is God's will that we are whole persons. Healing then can be physical, freeing people from disease, both physical and mental. It can also be about spiritual healing in which we need to be forgiven of a particular sin or sins. That's where the sacrament of reconciliation is so important for us so that we can receive forgiveness from God as part of our healing to become whole people.

Wholeness is also to do with holiness. We are called to be holy, set apart from the world and all its imperfections. We grow in holiness through our relationship with God in Christ by means of the sacraments and prayer. Being holy does not mean that we are any better than others, but it does mean that we allow Jesus to take over in our lives and show us the way to live, and have the right attitudes to people and to what is happening in our world.

Being holy as God is holy means we are becoming the sort of people that God wants us to be. We become more human. Love, generosity of spirit and always wanting the best for others is what Jesus showed in his ministry. He wants the best for us. May we all discern God's will for us.

Roger Watson