

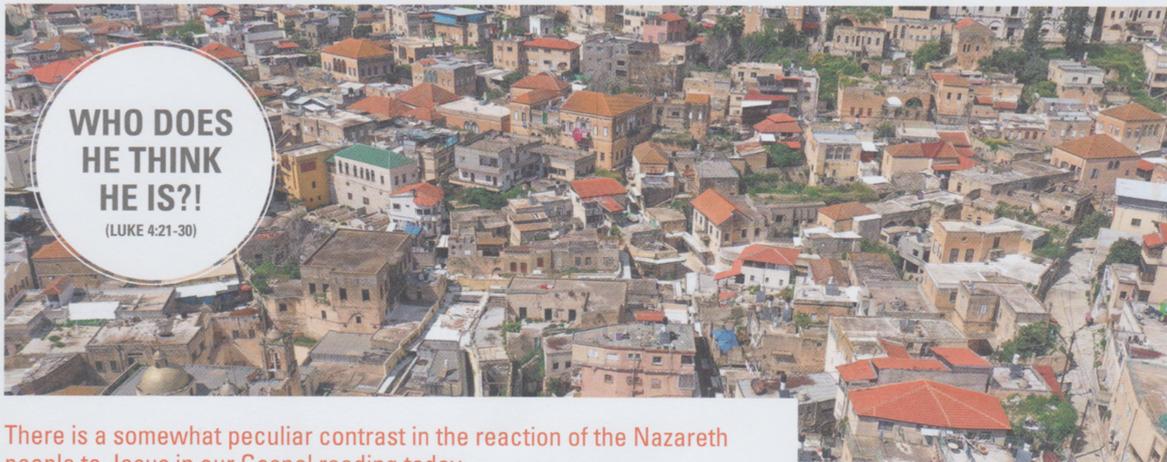
30 JANUARY 2022

Sunday Message

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



There is a somewhat peculiar contrast in the reaction of the Nazareth people to Jesus in our Gospel reading today.

Jesus has set out his programme for ministry in terms of the prophet Isaiah and this won the approval of all those who heard it. It is not so much Jesus' local origins as "the son of Joseph" which causes the consternation and change of attitude as his declaration that his message is not for one privileged group, but for all people.

The two incidents to which Jesus refers apply to the prophet Elijah and his disciple and successor Elisha. Both the widow at Zarephath and the Syrian military officer Naaman were Gentiles. The implication is that Capernaum is also to some extent foreign territory: the townsfolk are depicted as expecting Jesus to perform such works in a properly Jewish setting. What seems to enrage them is the notion that Gentiles can share in the good news that Jesus brings. They are intent on doing away with him, but he somehow eludes them and escapes.

Thus at the outset of Jesus ministry, we find that he is rejected by the very people who should have embraced him and his message. This theme will recur through Luke's two-volume book, the Gospel and Acts of the Apostles. ■

REFLECT

The theme runs through the Gospel tradition that Jesus' message is for all people and not restricted to any one particular group. We may understand this easily enough in terms of the split between Judaism and Christianity: this bitter quarrel is reflected in the writings of the New Testament, the Christian Scriptures.

But the Scriptures are addressed to us today, in our time and place. Perhaps we are being asked today if there are people who are considered beyond the pale: are there groups who are regarded as not acceptable to the community for one reason or another? Who are told that they are not welcome at the Eucharist? And why? What about gay people? Those whose married life did not turn out as they had hoped and find themselves barred from the sacraments? What is the good news as far as they are concerned?

One thing apparently not realised, or perhaps overlooked, is that the only people affected by the official rulings are those to whom the church matters, to whom the Eucharist and the sacraments are important. There are some who attend Mass weekly but do not receive Communion because their situation is deemed unacceptable. In today's Gospel episode, the townsfolk of Nazareth rise up violently against Jesus because he points out that the prophets Elijah and Elisha ministered in remarkable ways to people who were outside the nation of Israel: he says that his ministry is along the same lines, to those who will accept him and his message. Salvation is for all, especially those most in need.

Who are most in need of the love of God today? Who feel excluded by the church? What would Jesus do? ■

Aerial image of old city houses of Nazareth

SAY

The Spirit lives to set us free and binds us all in unity: walk, walk in the light.

(Damian Lundy)

DO

Think about how your parish can welcome those who feel rejected – and see what you can do to draw them into the community.



LEARN

The stories of Elijah and Elisha are found in the books of Kings.

There are echoes of the stories of these two prophets in Luke's presentation of Jesus as prophet.

Capernaum is the town on the shore of the Lake of Galilee which Jesus makes the base for his ministry when he leaves Nazareth.

SWINFORD (F12 YH57) MEELICK (F12 AY23) MIDFIELD (F12 AX29)

Fr Dermot Meehan Phone: 094-9251790/Urgent Calls: 087-1338200

PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.00am-2.00pm; Phone: 094 - 9253607

Email: swinfordparish@gmail.com

30th Jan – 6th Feb 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 29 th	6.30pm	Swinford: No Intention
Sunday 30 th	12 noon	Swinford: Anne Conwell, Oak Drive Dec'd of Durkan family, Ballydrum & The Peyton family, Tumgesh
Monday 31 st	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Tuesday 1 st	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 2 nd	10.00am	Swinford: Pdraig & Mary Kate Moore, Kilbride
Wednesday 2 nd	7.30pm	Swinford: Memorial of St Blaise
Thursday 3 rd	10.00am	Swinford: No Mass
Friday 4 th	10.00am	Swinford: Bernadette Cassidy, Ashgrove/Limerick Michael Jennings, Bollingbrook Drive/ New Jersey
Saturday 5 th	10.00am	Swinford: Kevin Fahey, Derryronane (MM)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 5 th	6.30pm	Swinford: Delma & Tom Keville, Circular Road & Kathleen Finn Michael & Mary McIntyre, Culduff
Sunday 6 th	12 noon	Swinford: Daniel Cassidy, Barnacogue Jim Grufferty, Bollingbrook Drive

Sunday 30 th	9.00am	Meelick: Martie Lavin, Culleens, his parents & dec'd family Pat & Mary Groarke, Bothaul & dec'd Loftus & Groarke families
Sunday 6 th	9.00am	Meelick: Mike & Ann Murphy, Ardhoome & their daughter Mary Duddy

Sunday 30 th	10.30am	Midfield: Mary & John McLoughlin, Woods & their daughter Mary Tara Ryan, Johnsfort
Sunday 6 th	10.30am	Midfield: No Intention

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Swinford Church on Thursdays from 3.00p.m. to 5.00p.m. All are welcome to come and spend some time in silent prayer before the Lord.

Restrictions: On Friday last, the Government announced the lifting of many restrictions to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. That is good news and has given a much needed 'lift' to people right across the country. That said, many continue to be cautious and have apprehensions about being in places where people gather in large numbers, including churches. Following a discussion at a meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council on how best to continue to help people feel safe when coming to Mass, all are asked to please keep the following in mind:

1. Please do not come to Mass if you are feeling unwell or displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19.
2. Face coverings should continue to be worn as is the case for shopping and using public transport.
3. Hands should be sanitised on entering and leaving the church.
4. Please continue to utilise all of the seats in the church so that all will feel safe during Mass. For that reason, only every second seat will continue to be used for the moment. Sincere thanks is due to our sacristans, stewards and cleaners who worked to keep us all safe over the past two years. When volunteers first came forward to help, no one could have foreseen how long their help would be necessary and their commitment and dedication to the tasks they undertook is very much appreciated.

Feast of St Brigid: Tuesday next, February 1st, is the Feast of St Brigid, one of the patron saints of Ireland. Many continue to follow the old tradition of making St Brigid's crosses and there will be a blessing for St Brigid's crosses at the end of the 10a.m. Mass in Swinford church for those who wish to bring their crosses to Mass or who join in praying the Mass on-line.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord: Wednesday next, February 2nd, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord when we remember that, forty days after his birth, in accordance with Jewish law and tradition, Mary and Joseph brought the Child Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. This feast is also known as Candlemas as it is traditional to bless candles for use in our churches and homes on this day. The blessing of candles will take place during the 10a.m. Mass on Wednesday for those who wish to bring candles to Mass or who join in praying the Mass on-line.

Memorial of St Blaise: Thursday next, February 3rd, is the memorial of St Blaise, a fourth century Armenian bishop and martyr. It is traditional to bless throats on this day. This year, we have been advised that it will not be possible to bless throats individually. Instead a general blessing will be given at the end of Mass at 7.30p.m on Wednesday evening in Swinford church for those present at Mass or who join in praying the Mass on-line.

Confirmation: Bishop Paul Dempsey will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in Swinford Church on Sunday, 15th May 2022 at 1.30 p.m.

First Holy Communion: First Holy Communion will be celebrated in Midfield Church on Saturday, 30th April 2022 at 11.30 a.m., in Swinford Church on Saturday, 7th May 2022 at 11.30a.m. and in Meelick Church on Saturday, 21st May 2022 at 12.00 noon

Offertory envelopes: Boxes of envelopes for the weekly offertory collection and for other collections during the year will be available for collection in our three churches next weekend. Please note that this year everybody will have a new number following a review of the number of boxes currently needed. Sincere thanks to all who contribute to collections either using the envelopes or by making their contribution on-line.

Reading the Bible: How to make sense of it, A series of four sessions on how to read the Bible today: These will look at its formation, the various kinds of literature that it contains, the contexts in which the books were composed and some of the key figures and events that we encounter in them. There is no charge. Presenter: Fr Eugene Duffy. Venue: The Gateway Hotel, Swinford. Dates: Tuesdays, Feb 15th and 22nd and March 1st and 8th. Time: 8.00 to 10.00 pm. Light refreshments will be provided during the break in each session. If you have a bible bring it with you on the night.

Bereavement Support: Losing a loved one is always a difficult experience. During Covid many support services were missing but from February 2nd, the weekly Bereavement Support Group will resume every Wednesday morning at 11am in the Family Centre at Knock Shrine. These meetings aim to help those who are grieving to find healing, hope and comfort. All are welcome. Further information from Monica Morley on 094-9375320.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
To give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Grant us, Lord our God,
That we may honour you with all our mind,
And love everyone in truth of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.
In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord
was addressed to me saying,
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew
you;
Before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the
nations.
So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them
all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence,
Or in their presence I will make you
dismayed.
I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land:
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priest and the country people.
They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
For I am with you to deliver you –
It is the Lord who speaks."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 70

Response:
My lips will tell of your help.

- In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. (R.)

- Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. (R.)
- It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been
my help. (R.)
- My lips will tell of your justice
And day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my
youth
And I proclaim your wonders still. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Cor 12:31-13:13

(For shorter form read between > <)

>A reading from the first letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians.<

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am
going to show you a way that is better than
any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of
angels, but speak without love, I am simply a
gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have
the gift of prophecy, understanding all the
mysteries there are, and knowing everything,
and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move
mountains, but without love, then I am
nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess,
piece by piece, and if I even let them take my
body to burn it, but am without love, it will do
me no good whatever.

>Love is always patient and kind: it is never
jealous; love is never boastful or conceited;
it is never rude or selfish; it does not take
offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no
pleasure in other people's sins but delights
in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to
trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there
are gifts of prophecy, the time will come
when they must fail; or the gift of languages,
it will not continue for ever; and knowledge
– for this, too, the time will come when it
must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect
and our prophesying is imperfect; but once
perfection comes, all imperfect things will
disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk
like a child, and think like a child, and argue
like a child, but now I am a man, all childish
ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing
a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall
be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I
have now is imperfect; but then I shall know
as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last:
faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these
is love.

The word of the Lord.<

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the
Lord;
no one can come to the Father except
through me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 4:21-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue,
"This text is being fulfilled today even as you
listen." And he won the approval of all, and

they were astonished by the gracious words
that came from his lips.

They said, "This is Joseph's son, surely?"
But he replied, "No doubt you will quote me
the saying, 'Physician, heal yourself' and
tell me, 'We have heard all that happened in
Capernaum, do the same here in your own
countryside.'" And he went on, "I tell you
solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his
own country.

"There were many widows in Israel, I can
assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven
remained shut for three years and six months
and a great famine raged throughout the
land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of
these; he was sent to a widow at Zarephath,
a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's
time there were many lepers in Israel, but
none of these was cured, except the Syrian,
Naaman."

When they heard this everyone in the
synagogue was enraged. They sprang to
their feet and hustled him out of the town;
and they took him up to the brow of the hill
their town was built on, intending to throw
him down the cliff, but he slipped through the
crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, we bring to your altar
these offerings of our service:
be pleased to receive them, we pray,
and transform them
into the Sacrament of our redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame,
for I call on you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,
we pray, O Lord,
that through this help to eternal salvation
true faith may ever increase.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.