



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B Cycle II

28 January 2024



To See Him

One of the surprising gaps in the Gospels is any description of what Jesus actually looked like. If you had known someone who had been in the synagogue in Capernaum and had heard that Jesus had healed the possessed man, you would have wanted to know what this Jesus was like. Would you have wanted to know how tall he was, the colour of his hair, what he was wearing? But your friend who was a witness tells you something else - he taught with authority! This impression seems to block out everything else.

The lack of description in the Gospels of what Jesus looked like is a gap that can inspire creativity. The absence of a description can lead to a generous range of images as different communities recognise Jesus as one of their own. Today the diversity of depictions of Jesus can not only give us insights into who Jesus was but also remind each one of us to see the presence of Jesus in both friend and stranger.

Sunday Living Word Martin Foster Majellan Media

A Personal Experience

The three readings are held together by a common thread: harmony of action and purpose. In the First Reading, God puts his words in his prophet's mouth that he would tell the people everything he commands.

The Second Reading speaks about being free to please the Lord through 'undivided devotion in body and spirit.'

The Gospel speaks about how Jesus 'taught them as one who had authority: Jesus' authority proceeds from the unity of two wills: the Father's will and his.

To have a personal experience of this man called Jesus is to have a personal relationship with his Father, our Father. For indeed, we know the giver from the gift, the greatness of the artist from the art, the skill of the cook from the food. To be gripped by Jesus becomes a great event only when we say with him, 'Father, may your will be done.'

God's Word Fr Ronald Tellis



Feast Days this Week

St John Bosco
31 January

**The
Presentation of
the Lord**
2 February



Anointing of the Sick

will be celebrated
Friday 2 February
during 11:45am
Mass for those
over 65 or with
serious or long-
term illness.



Adoration

Adoration of
the Blessed
Sacrament
is held on each
first Saturday
(3 February)
following 9am
Mass for one
hour, closing
with Benediction.



Quote for the Week

*A friend who
would lead us
into sin
has become
our enemy.*

St Francis
de Sales

Life-long Relationship with God

In this week's Gospel, Mark 1:21-28, we see Jesus teaching in the synagogue and performing a miraculous healing. This passage provides a powerful example for us to teach our children about Jesus, his teachings, and his love for us.

One way to engage children in this Gospel story is to have them act out the scene. Encourage them to take on the roles of Jesus, the people in the synagogue, and the man possessed by the unclean spirit. This can help children to understand the story in a fun and interactive way.

Another way to teach children about Jesus is to read children's books that tell the story of his life and teachings. There are many wonderful books available that can help children to learn about Jesus in a way that is accessible and engaging for them.

We can also encourage children to pray to Jesus and ask for his guidance and help in their lives. Teaching children to pray can help them to develop a deeper relationship with God and to understand the importance of turning to him in times of need.

Children will only know about Jesus if they are taught about Him. Without teachers and catechists our children often miss out on the lessons of Jesus and his teachings, they miss out on learning how to pray and to grow in their faith.

As we reflect on this Gospel passage, let us remember the importance of teaching our children about Jesus and his teachings. Through our words and actions, we can help our children to grow in their faith and to develop a life-long relationship with God.

Colleen Smith *Pastoral Associate*

The New Moses

A great prophet like Moses was what the Jews were waiting for. Moses had conversed with the Lord.

Now it is in Jesus that the promise of the new prophet is fulfilled. And it is fulfilled in a more wonderful way. In his book, *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI explains that although Moses' immediate relation to God makes him a great mediator of Revelation, it has its limits. He was not allowed to see the face of God, but only God's back (cf Ex 33:23). But the new Moses, Jesus Christ, has a real, immediate vision of the face of God. The Pope succinctly concludes: "It is in Jesus that the promise of the new prophet is fulfilled. What was true of Moses only in fragmentary form has now been fully realised in the person of Jesus: he lives before the face of God, not just as a friend, but as a Son; he lives in the most intimate unity with the Father."

The Gospel shows the people marveling at Jesus' exousia or "authority." People are astonished at his teaching. Moreover, Jesus' powerful words are accompanied by his equally powerful deeds. Pope Benedict explains that Jesus' teaching is radically different from what can be learned in schools. It is not a product of human learning of whatever kind. Rather, it originates from immediate contact with the Father, from "face-to-face" dialogue-from the vision of the one who rests close to the Father's heart.

365 Days with the Lord Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

You or Me

In the synagogue in Capernaum, Jesus encounters a man possessed by an unclean spirit. What was this unclean spirit? Of course, we can only speculate. Perhaps it was a spirit of injustice which meant that he was not paying his workers fairly. Perhaps it was the love of money. Perhaps it was the desire to be given the place of honour at table, to be considered better than others and superior to them. When we hear references to someone possessed by an unclean spirit, we should not conjure up graphic images of demonic possession as portrayed in horror movies. The devil is too smart for that and will usually masquerade as something good, even virtuous, while hiding deeper motives. The man may have been a respected member of the synagogue. Put simply, that man possessed by an unclean spirit could be you or me.

For a long time, this man could go comfortably to the synagogue and go home without feeling in any way disturbed about his life or actions. But when Jesus entered the synagogue and spoke with authority - the authority of God - the evil spirit in the man became deeply disturbed and threatened. Powerless against the Holy One of God, with a loud cry he came out of the man. It must have been a shocking but liberating experience for that poor man.

One of the greatest plays of the devil is to help us feel comfortable in our ways, to assure us that we are very good, and everything is okay, even when this is not the case. May the Lord visit us, as he visited the synagogue in Capernaum, and disturb anything within us that is not of God. May he drive out any forces of evil that may be finding a home within us, whether as individuals or as a Church community.

God's Word Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

Warning Sign!

A priest and a parishioner from the local church were pounding a sign into the ground, that read: "The end is near! Turn yourself around Now Before it's too Late!" As a car sped past them, the driver yelled, "Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" From just beyond the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash. The priest turned to the parishioner and asked, "Do you think the sign should just say 'Bridge Out!'?"

Please Note

Classes for Seniors

CatholicCare is running Brain Games and Gentle Exercises again on Mondays. Brain Games from 11.00am-12.00pm, Let's Get Moving from 12:15pm-1:15pm. Classes are in the Brogan Room. You can join anytime and a free trial lesson is available for all parishioners. Bookings are essential 9481 2659.

Lost Property

Please see the lost property cupboard at the Ashton Avenue side door if you have lost any belongings. There are two sets of drawers either side of the cupboard. Any unclaimed items will soon be forwarded to Vinnies or disposed of.



Low Gluten Hosts

Please see one of the Priests before Mass if you are a coeliac.



Kneeler Warning

If you are long-legged you may like to place the kneeler down behind you to avoid it being knocked down on someone's toes.



Offertory Procession

Children are encouraged to take part in the Offertory Procession. Come to the Offertory Table when invited by the Acolytes.



Church Cleaners Needed

Very light duties monthly on a roster basis, for Friday mornings from 9am for less than an hour. Please call the parish office if you can assist 4332 2216.

THE ENTRANCE PARISH DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

A beacon of Faith, Hope and Love

PARISH PRIEST & DEAN OF THE CENTRAL COAST Fr Brian Moloney **ASSISTANT PRIEST** Fr Joshi Naduppura
DEACON Paul Simmons **SEMINARIAN** Rosan Mathew **PASTORAL ASSOCIATE** Colleen Smith
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Leanne McGill **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE MANAGER** Karen Green
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OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL Tel 7256 2115 **ST PETER'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE** Tel 4351 2344

Mass & Devotions

Sunday Masses Saturday Vigil 5:00pm Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am (11am at Reynolds Court, Bias Ave Bateau Bay)

Weekday Masses Monday - Thursday 9:00am Friday 11:45am Saturday 9:00am

Reconciliations Saturdays 9:30-10am and 4-4:30pm

Liturgy of the Hours Saturday 8:40am **Rosary** Monday-Thursday 8:35am Friday 11:20am Saturday 9:30am

Cenacle Prayer Group Wednesday 9:30am **Christian Meditation** Friday 10:30am-11:30am Reynolds Room

4th Sunday

Deuteronomy: 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

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.

Responsorial Psalm: If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!

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.

Keep Us In Your Prayers *There is no gift more precious than prayer - Fr Benedict Groeschel*

Recently Deceased: Faye Cuneo, Martin Ghrixi, Carole Millar, Jeanette Bishenden, Bridget Burgess, Josephine Duxbury.

Funerals: The funeral for Faye was held during the week. Please pray for Faye and her family.

Anniversaries: St Jegan, Marica Tuka, Maria Giacco, Brian D'Costa and Craig Lockyer.

Remembrances: Pat Smith, Marie Powell, Jill O'Sullivan, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, Terence & Josephine Smith, Terry Howard, John Giutronich, Jill Trotter, Rita Malone, Barbara Malone and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Sick: Peter Drinan, John McClement, Margaret Falzon, Susan Simmons, Barbara Greaney, Anne & Trish Knoke, Lyle Dunn, Paul Smith, Anne O'Rourke, Collette O'Grady, Emma Horton, Marc Sabat, Linda Read, Peter O'Grady, Tanya Doorn, Kelly Will, and all with serious illness.

Welcome Newly Baptised: Savannah, Charli & Delilah Lowe, Mila Carey, Banks Stringer, Ben & Tom Standish, Darcy & Mason Pellatt.

Pearly Gates Revisited



Our Lady of the Rosary

GIFT CENTRE

For all your devotional needs...

Everyone Welcome!

The Gift Centre is open each weekend before and after the 5pm Vigil Mass on Saturdays, and before and after the 9:30am Mass on Sundays.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Enquiries 4332 2216