



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

St Bernadette's Church, West Ivanhoe

Mary Immaculate Church, Ivanhoe

Mother of God Church, East Ivanhoe

No. 5

28 – 29 January 2012

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: YEAR B

Reflection:

We've all had to put up with boring speeches or sermons from time to time, whether it be from politicians, preachers, at school speech nights or the local service or sports club. Every now and then though we come across someone who really arrests our attention. It mightn't be only that he or she puts words together well; it's often a combination of that and something in the content that strikes a chord. Maybe we are even envious of the obvious gift that person has. This is surely how Jesus came across to those people in the synagogue. This was someone quite different; they had had their share of the run of the mill scribes with their tired old platitudes. Here was someone who really meant what he said and was able to back it up with fearless engagement with a power from which they shrank in ignorance and doubt.

It is not without importance that this is the first public appearance of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. Over the next few weeks we will witness the popular acceptance of Jesus as he battles with a force that takes various forms – physical sickness, opposition from entrenched mindsets, the accusation of collusion with the enemy itself. This is the 'gospel', the good news that Jesus invites the people to accept readily by changing their lives. The same 'gospel' is offered to us for we are dealing with a power that can change our lives, not merely a set of nice, pious sayings. Too often we reduce the gospels to that and so remain relatively unmoved by the dynamic challenge they contain.

As we know, in that society possession by 'unclean spirits' was a general term that covered all kinds of conditions for which we today have medical or social explanations and sophisticated labels. We can therefore approach these stories with a type of superiority as if they either don't occur anymore or are best left to experts to deal with. Yet isn't it true that all of us are 'possessed' in different ways by forces over which we have to admit to having little or no control? Some people are enslaved by addictions to drugs, alcohol, food, gambling and so on. Many of us suffer from more subtle addictions so that we don't even want to admit to ourselves, let alone to anyone else, that we are virtually powerless to control them. All of us know deep down that many of our habits and ways of dealing with others are so much a part of our make up that we can do little to change them.

The people who acclaimed Jesus realised that he had something special that could influence them to change their lives. The authority and healing power of Jesus is present today in his body, the Church, through the Sacraments, but also in the love, care and compassion of every community of faith. We only have to look around us when we are gathered for the Eucharist to name it and accept it. It is when the Church is able to back up teaching and doctrine with the same concern for the troubled lives of ordinary people that it is most effective in continuing the mission of Jesus. That is why in the Gospels he is always accompanied by followers learning how to be genuine 'fishers of men'.

© Fr Chris Hope, Liturgical Commission, Brisbane 2012. Graphics: Liturgical Commission, Brisbane 2012

THE WORD

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.

V. 1 Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

V. 2 Come in; let us kneel and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

V. 3 O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: Lord hear us: **Lord, hear our prayer**

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.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember all in need of prayer at this time including Barbara Ballek, Joy Meacham, Phoebe Chiera Hone, Sheila Ryan, Beryl O'Keefe, Bev Horne, Sidney Delaney, Cathy Lengyel and Jill Brophy. We remember all who provide care and support for those in need.

We remember all who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

This Week's Readings: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year B

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Mark 1:21-28

Saint and Feast Days:

Mon 30 January: St Aiden

Tues 31 January: St John Bosco

Wed 1 February: St Brigid

Thurs 2 February: Presentation of the Lord

Fri. 3 February: St Blaise

Sat. 4 February: St John de Britto

Next Week's Readings: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year B

Job 7:1-4, 6-7 Psalm 146:1-6 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23 Mark 1:29-39

INFORMATION

WEEKDAY MASSES 2012 - CHANGES OF LOCATION:

Please note: As from Tuesday 3 January 2012, weekday Masses will change location:

TUESDAY: 9.15am at **MOTHER OF GOD**

FRIDAY: Mass 9.15am at **ST. BERNADETTE'S**

First Friday Masses: 9.15am at St. Bernadette's starting Friday 3 February 2012

Thank you:

We sincerely thank Fr Len Thomas who will celebrate Mass at 9.15am on Tuesday 31 January at Mother of God whilst I am attending Prison Ministry. We are grateful to priests who support our parish in a variety of ways, as well as giving generously in both time and spirit. - **Fr Thang**

Sacraments 2012:

2012 Sacramental Brochures are available in each church for enrolment in Parish sacramental programs – Confirmation, Reconciliation or First Eucharist 2012. Enrolments are only accepted from families **who live within the parish which includes Ivanhoe, Ivanhoe East, Ivanhoe West and Eaglemont.**

Please note: Only children **who do not attend** Parish schools or **who have transferred out** of Catholic Primary schools need to enrol in the Parish Program. *Previous enrolment at one of the three Ivanhoe Parish schools whilst living outside the parish does not guarantee enrolment in the sacramental program.*

It is recommended that preparation for sacraments takes place in the parish in which the catechist lives.

Enrolment forms available from Parish Office 9499 1515 and website: www.ivanhoecatholics.com

NB. Closing date is Friday 16 March 2012 - It is not always possible to accept late enrolments.

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND 4 – 5 February 2012

ST. BERNADETTE'S:

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

Sister Frances

Special Ministers

B. Jowett, T. Nibali

MARY IMMACULATE:

Sunday 9.00am

Leader

As available

Reader

As available

Mass Coordinators

Counters

L. McInerney, M. Rocco

MOTHER OF GOD:

Sacristan

Lector

Special Ministers

Sunday 10.30am

P. Verrocchi J. Hodge
Altar Society: A. Moloney

E. Brownstein, MA Darcy, J. Ellis
Choir Coordinator: I. Chiera