



Gospel Mk 1:21-28

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The word 'diabolical' comes from a Greek word referring to something broken in two, shattered. Looking at persons and societies torn apart, it is obvious that the diabolical spirit is powerful. However, it harbours a fear that a more powerful Holy Spirit could reintegrate a personality, could make a community out of divided groups.

'Have you come to destroy us?' indicates that this fear was realised in the coming on to the scene of Jesus Christ. Jesus' answer was a resounding 'Yes', not in words but in action, healing a man torn apart by a diabolical spirit.

Jesus Christ invites and empowers us to join in his healing mission to overcome whatever it is which tears people apart, whether at the individual, community or global levels. We do so in the confidence of His Resurrection which overcame the diabolical tearing apart of His body and soul.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to joining Jesus' mission, so putting the fear of God into the devil!

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The Living Word

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

28 January 2024

First Reading Dt 18:15-20

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

**(R.) If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

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.)
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.)

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.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 7:32-35

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

**A people in darkness have seen a
great light:**

**a radiant dawn shines on those lost
in death.**

Alleluia!

OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
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Office Hours: Monday, & Wednesday 10am-3.00pm; Friday 10am-4.00pm.

Sunday Masses: *English:* Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Mass in other languages: *Chin - Burmese* Sunday 2.30pm; *Tongan* TBC

Vietnamese Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7pm

Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am; Friday 11am; Tuesday 7.30pm

Confessions: Saturday 9.30am (*English or Vietnamese: 1st & 4th week*) **Novena:** Tuesday 8.00pm



MASS INTENTIONS 27 Jan - 3 Feb

Sat	5.30pm	Thanksgiving
Sun	9.00am	Angela & John Spiteri RIP
	10.30am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	5.30pm	All Souls
Mon	9.00am	All Souls
Tues	7.30pm	All Souls
Wed	9.00am	All Souls
Thurs	9.00am	Thanksgiving
Fri	11.00am	Thanksgiving for 50th Year in Religious Order
Sat	9.00am	Parish Intention

***"The Master is here and
wants to see you."***

John 11:28

**INVITATION to come and
spend some quiet time with
Jesus in the
Blessed**

**Sacrament:
Each Friday
12pm -3.00pm**

**Come for just a short visit
or for as long as you wish.**



DONATIONS Please support our parish
Thank you!

Child Safety Reminders & Important Notice for Parents

- ◆ Please accompany your child if they need to leave the church building.
 - ◆ Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.
- Our parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and the vulnerable.**

Week 1	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	M. Boongaling	Lucy Sgro	Jannelli Campana	Nenita Santos
Extraordinary Ministers	Mary Rapa		Anita Mastroianni	Celine Rivera
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	E. Campana	Eldred Rivera
Weekly Counting	John Francis & Vickie Sheridan			

The King's Authority: Scott Hahn Reflects on the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: *Deut 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28*

Last week, Jesus announced the kingdom of God is at hand. This week, in mighty words and deeds, He exercises His dominion—asserting royal authority over the ruler of this world, Satan.

Notice that today's events take place on the sabbath. The sabbath was to be an everlasting sign—both of God's covenant love for His creation, and His deliverance of His covenant people, Israel, from slavery.

On this sabbath, Jesus signals a new creation—that the Holy One has come to purify His people and deliver the world from evil.

"With an unclean spirit" is biblical language for a man possessed by a demon, Satan being the prince of demons.

The demons' question: "What have you to do with us?" is often used in Old Testament scenes of combat and judgment.

And as God by His Word "rebuked" the forces of chaos in creating the world, and again rebuked the Red Sea so the Israelites could make their exodus, Mark uses the same word to describe Jesus rebuking the demons.

Jesus is the prophet foretold by Moses in today's First Reading. Though He has authority over heaven and earth, He becomes one of our own kinsmen.

He comes to rebuke the forces of evil and chaos—not only in the world, but in our lives. He wants to make us holy in body and spirit, as Paul says in today's Second Reading.

In this liturgy, we hear His voice and "see" His works, as we sing in today's Psalm. And as Moses tells us today, we should listen to Him.



Australia Day - 26 January *May God who formed our southern land be for us a rock of strength*



May God who rules our southern seas keep us safe in every storm.

May God who made our southern skies turn our darkness into light.

Let us reflect, respect and celebrate! We reflect on our nations past - a history which began more than 65,000 years ago. We reflect on the resilience of communities and the spirit of helping, giving and supporting each other. **We respect** and share the stories, histories and contributions of everyday Australians, past and present, because together with the First Australians, we're all part of the story of Australia. **We celebrate** our multicultural nation, its achievements and most of all its people and appreciate the freedoms and opportunities we are able to enjoy.

Mark Your Calendar for Special Masses in February

Ash Wednesday 14 February: 9am, 6pm (*English/Chin*), 7.30pm (*Vietnamese*)

Anointing Mass 29 February: 10am

Vietnamese Lunar New Year Masses

OUR LADY'S - SUNSHINE : 9, 10 & 12 February: 7.00pm; Sunday: 12.30pm

OUR LADY'S - MAIDSTONE : 9, 10 & 12 February: 7.30pm; Sunday 11.30am