

'ENCOUNTERING JESUS, WOUNDED AND DREAMING'  
3rd Sunday Ordinary Time – HOMILY - 21 JANUARY 2018

### WEDDING

Congratulations to Paula Podest Ruiz and Carlos Ciuffardi Elorriaga on your sacramental wedding on board the Papal flight to Iquique, Chile, this week.

Paula and Carlos were civilly married in 2010.

Their dream was then to have a sacramental wedding in their church.

Unfortunately, their church was destroyed by the 2010 earthquake.

#### IN LIFE IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO DREAM.

They asked Pope Francis to officiate on board the flight and he gladly did so.

Paula and Carlos were the ministers of the sacrament.

In sacramental marriages the couple are the ministers.

Pope Francis received their consent.

Vatican News provides a brief article by Devin Watkins about the wedding and wedding photos. Their church marriage certificate reads:

*"On 18 January 2018, aboard the papal plane from Santiago to Iquique, Mr. Carlos Ciuffardi Elorriaga and Ms. Paula Podest Ruiz contracted marriage, in the presence of the witness, Ignacio Cueto. The Holy Father Pope Francis received their consent."*

### SIMON AND ANDREW

In today's Gospel Reading, Mark 1:14-20, we hear of two other incredible events.

Jesus is on his way, proclaiming the Good News of God.

John the Baptist has prepared the way for Jesus.

John has been arrested and now the public ministry of Jesus is at work.

The scene is not on an aeroplane, but along the Sea of Galilee.

Simon and Andrew are at work, casting their nets.

We wonder what they asked God for in their daily prayers.

What were their hopes for the future?

Were they praying for a good catch of fish that day?

Were they praying for their fishing business?

Now Jesus gazes at them.

The Gospel continues:

*"As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him."*

We note the word "*immediately*".  
Mark's Gospel gives us a sense of urgency.  
God is at work NOW.

### HOW DO WE RESPOND NOW?

#### JAMES AND JOHN

The second event follows now. The Gospel continues:

*"As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him."*

A different part of the work cycle of fishing.  
James and John are mending their nets.  
Again, the urgency of God's work now with the word "*immediately*".  
They leave their father Zebedee, their work mates, their work,  
and follow Jesus.  
Brothers Simon and Andrew enter into the family of Jesus.  
Brothers James and John enter into the family of Jesus.  
**All four enter into the divine dream of Jesus.**

#### WHERE DO THEY GO FIRST? WHERE DO WE GO WITH JESUS?

The Gospel continues:

*"They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught."*

#### ENCOUNTERING JESUS

Simon and Andrew, James and John have encountered Jesus and followed him.  
Now they are companions of Jesus.

#### WHAT WAS THERE ABOUT JESUS THAT THE BROTHERS WOULD LEAVE EVERYTHING TO FOLLOW HIM?

In the homily of Pope Francis 16<sup>th</sup> January at Mass in Chile,  
Pope Francis spoke about encountering Jesus from the example of the Beatitudes.  
He used the words of Matthew 5:1 "*When Jesus saw the crowds*"

*"In these first words ... we discover how Jesus wants to encounter us, the way that God always surprises his people (cf. Ex 3:7). The first thing Jesus does is to look out and see the faces of his people. Those faces awaken God's visceral love. Jesus' heart was not moved by ideas or concepts, but by faces, persons. By life calling out for the Life that the Father wants to give us. When Jesus saw the crowds, he saw the faces of his followers, and what is most remarkable is that they, for their part,*

*encounter in the gaze of Jesus the echo of their longings and aspirations.  
This encounter gives rise to the catalogue of the Beatitudes,  
that horizon towards which we are called and challenged to set out.  
... the Beatitudes are born of the compassionate heart of Jesus,  
which encounters the hearts, compassionate and in need of compassion,  
of men and women seeking and yearning for a life of happiness.  
Men and women who know what it is to suffer,  
who appreciate the confusion and pain  
of having the earth shake beneath their feet  
or seeing dreams washed away  
when the work of a lifetime comes to nought.  
But men and women who also know  
what it is to persevere and struggle to keep going,  
what it is to rebuild their lives and to start again.'*

### **WOUNDED**

In the first Reading today **Jonah 3:1-5.10**  
we hear of the call from God, to Jonah to go forward  
as a prophet to Nineveh and call the people to repent.  
The archaeological remains of ancient Nineveh  
are near the modern city of Mosul in northern Iraq.  
Several Eastern Catholic and Orthodox traditions  
commemorate the three days of the **FAST OF NINEVEH** before Lent.

Earlier in the Book of Jonah, we see a wounded Jonah,  
Jonah wounded by his failure to serve God,  
wounded by his stubbornness,  
wounded by his attempt to run away.

**Yet God continues to call Jonah through his wounded-ness.**

Since April 2016 until now,  
families from around Nineveh continue to arrive in Brisbane and Logan.  
Some come from Mosul, some from the towns and villages of the Nineveh Plains.  
Thank you to the Nineveh families in our parish community for your witness.  
Nineveh was liberated in Jonah's time from wrongdoing.  
Mosul and the Nineveh region have been liberated more recently.

**Simon and Andrew, James and John** will grow in their faith relationship with Jesus.  
As disciples they will follow, listen, fall and get up again.  
They learn from their wounded-ness and from their joys.  
Much later, the disciples would gather after the death of Jesus.  
They gathered in a closed room, scared.  
The Risen Jesus appeared to them with his wounds.

### **WHY DID JESUS SHOW HIS WOUNDS?**

In his **Homily to Priests, Religious Brothers, Sisters Consecrated, Seminarians, last week in Chile**, Pope Francis reflected on the wounds of Risen Jesus.

*"Jesus Christ does not appear to his disciples without his wounds; those very wounds enabled Thomas to profess his faith.  
We are not asked to ignore or hide our wounds.  
A Church with wounds can understand the wounds of today's world and make them her own, suffering with them, accompanying them and seeking to heal them.  
A wounded Church does not make herself the centre of things, does not believe that she is perfect, but puts at the centre the one who can heal those wounds, whose name is Jesus Christ.  
The knowledge that we are wounded sets us free.  
Yes, it sets us free  
from becoming self-referential and thinking ourselves superior.  
It sets us free from the promethean tendency of  
"those who ultimately trust only in their own powers  
and feel superior to others  
because they observe certain rules or remain intransigently faithful to a particular Catholic style of the past".[4]  
In Jesus, our wounds are risen.  
They inspire solidarity;  
they help us to tear down the walls that enclose us in elitism  
and they impel us to build bridges  
and to encounter all those yearning for that merciful love  
which Christ alone can give."*

## DREAMING

In the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament, we learn how the Holy Spirit inspired the early church to accept its wounds and to continue to live the divine dream of Jesus.

Pope Francis last week spoke to the Bishops of Chile. On dreaming he said:

*"And in this regard, to implore from the Holy Spirit the gift of dreaming.  
Please do not stop dreaming,  
dreaming and working for a missionary and prophetic option  
capable of transforming everything, so that our customs,  
ways of doing things, times and schedules,  
language and ecclesial structures can be suitably channelled  
for the evangelization of Chile  
rather than for ecclesiastical self-preservation."*

During this week let us reflect on

- the gift of the Holy Spirit to dream,
- the surprises of God acting in our lives,
- the wonder of Jesus working through our wounds,
- the encounter with the gaze of Jesus in our lives

Paula and Carlos had a dream.

It came to be in a way they would not have originally expected.  
May God surprise us as our dreaming in Jesus comes to be.  
Let us pray.

Fr. Gerry

[#OPYOE2018 Our Parish Year of Encounter 2018 - in long form - 'Our Parish Year of Encountering Jesus in Our Neighbour 2018]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/012118.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook21012018>]

Other References:

Pope Francis 16<sup>th</sup> January at Mass in Chile – Mass for Peace and Justice

Pope Francis 16<sup>th</sup> January - Address to the Bishops

*Photos of Paula Podest Ruiz and Carlos Ciuffardi Elorriaga wedding from Vatican News*

