

'ACKNOWLEDGING THE PROPHETIC CALL OF GOD AROUND US' - 8th JULY 2018

14th Sunday Ordinary Time

Earlier in the Gospel of Mark, **Jesus has healed**

- The man in Capernaum with an unclean spirit
- Simon's mother-in-law
- At sunset the sick with many diseases and those possessed from around Capernaum.
- A person with leprosy in Galilee
- A paralysed man
- A Man with a withered hand on the Sabbath
- "cured many"
- Exorcised and healed the Gerasene Demoniac who described himself as "My name is Legion. For we are many"
- Raised from death the daughter of Jairus
- The woman with a long-term haemorrhage

And he was sought out for his preaching.

SO, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE COMES HOME TO NAZARETH?

We read now from today's Gospel passage how he was received.

GOSPEL OF MARK 6:1-6

*'He left that place and came to his home town,
and his disciples followed him.*

*"On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue,
and many who heard him were astounded.
They said, 'Where did this man get all this?
What is this wisdom that has been given to him?
What deeds of power are being done by his hands!
Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary
and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon,
and are not his sisters here with us?'
And they took offence at him."*

WHY WOULD THEY TAKE OFFENCE AT HIM?

JEALOUSY? FAMILIARITY? TALL – POPPY SYNDROME? INFERIORITY?

There is Jesus visiting his home town.

He is known for his healing powers already.

WHY DO THEY TAKE OFFENCE WHEN HE TEACHES THEM?

WHY?

PERHAPS WE FIND PART OF THE ANSWER BY LOOKING INTO OURSELVES?

God is active in everyday life, our own everyday lives.

WHAT DO WE TAKE FOR GRANTED?
WHAT DO WE FAIL TO SEE?
WHOSE INSPIRATION DO WE REJECT?

The Holy Spirit is continually at work.

DO WE HAVE THE EYES OF FAITH TO APPRECIATE WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES FOR US?

MY INVITATION TO YOU | PRAYER & REFLECTION

You are invited this week to spend some time in prayer,
reflecting on the many blessings you might have.

List them from health and possessions and relationships and giftedness and purpose.

For example –

Do you running water at home or do you have to travel to get water?

Do you have shelter?

Can you see and read?

Can you taste?

Do you have good friends?

Are you able to feel?

Do you have particular gifts?

Are you have access to a medication that helps your health?

And of course, the list can run into many, many blessings.

Now in your prayer, thank God for your blessings.

And now in spirit, let them go.

Accept them but don't let possessions or your talents etc. control you.

Just turn them over to God, take a few breaths,

and rest a while in God's presence.

Don't take offence like many people in Nazareth did.

Instead of acknowledging the giftedness of Jesus in their midst,

they failed to thank God for his blessings. They took offence.

And they failed to see where God was calling them to be.

The Gospel continues:

"Then Jesus said to them,

***'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town,
and among their own kin, and in their own house.'***

And he could do no deed of power there,

except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.

And he was amazed at their unbelief.' "

Many people in Nazareth – a community of unbelief.

A divided community unable to rejoice in others,

unable to take joy in the miracles of God's presence in their midst.

WHO ARE THE PROPHETS IN OUR MIDST?
AND IN WHAT PARTICULAR WAY AND AREAS ARE THEY PROPHETS?
PERHAPS ANOTHER TIME THIS WEEK WE COULD RESPOND TO THESE 2 QUESTIONS?
Reflect on them and thank God for the prophets and areas they speak.

ONE EXAMPLE IS POPE FRANCIS

The prophetic mission of Pope Francis in calling us to care for God's creation.

Pope Francis on Friday [addressed participants at the conference](#)
for the 3rd anniversary of his creation encyclical
['Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common home'](#)

Some of his insights follow.

He begins in continuity with the prophetic St Francis of Assisi 800 years ago.
He says:

*"Here we can think back on the call that Francis of Assisi received
from the Lord in the little church of San Damiano:*

***"Go and repair my house, which, as you can see, lies in ruins".**
Today, the "common home" of our planet also needs urgently
to be repaired and secured for a sustainable future."*

Pope Francis shared his prophetic challenges and insights into

- Danger
*"There is a real danger that we will leave future generations
only rubble, deserts and refuse."*
- Encouraging the forthcoming COP24 Summit in December
*"All governments should strive to honour the commitments made in Paris,
in order to avoid the worst consequences of the climate crisis"*
- Solidarity in the practice of integral ecology
*"Along with states, local authorities, civil society,
and economic and religious institutions can promote
the culture and practice of an integral ecology."*
- Encouraging the Global Climate Action Summit in September for
*"suitable responses,
with the support of citizens' pressure groups worldwide."*
- Financial institutions
"part both of the problem and its solution"
- Change of hearts and minds
stressing the words of Pope Benedict XVI in 2001
"We must encourage and support an 'ecological conversion'"

- Dialogue and commitment to our common home and recognizing in young people and Indigenous Peoples *“two groups of people at the forefront of efforts to foster an integral ecology”.*
- Young people *“It is the young who will have to face the consequences of the current environmental and climate crisis.”*
- Indigenous Peoples *“The lives of indigenous peoples “are a living memory of the mission that God has entrusted to us all: the protection of our common home””*
- Joy *“may our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope”*

SAVEEN AND BAN

We now call forward two people, a young married couple, who occasionally join us in worship. They are regular members of worship in Banyo Nundah Parish. Thank you for joining us today.

Saveen is a doctor and Ban is a dentist. They were commissioned by their Archdiocese in Erbil. They have experienced the suffering of minorities in Iraq. Both have been studying a Master’s Degree at ACU in Brisbane. They obviously have a **healing ministry**. They also have a **ministry of advocacy**. They have a **prophetic ministry to name reality and to bring hope**. **And a ministry to love people as their neighbour.**

They will return to Iraq with a mission to bring hope to people. They will now share with us about the new hospital nearing completion in northern Iraq and which they will manage on behalf of the church.

[\[Saveen and Ban speak\]](#)

All are now invited to stand and raise a hand over them in prayer. We ask God to bless them in their new ministries of

- healing,
- management,
- advocacy,
- naming reality and
- bearers of hope
- loving people.

And to watch over them and guide them. Let us stand.

Fr Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/070818.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook08072018>]

Other References:

[Laudato Si' – Saving our common home and the future of life on earth 5-6 July 2018](#)

Francis Encyclical '[Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common home](#)'

Francis [Address to the International Conference](#) on third anniversary of Laudato Si'

GOSPEL OF MARK

HOMILY: ACKNOWLEDGING THE PROPHETIC CALL OF GOD AROUND US

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“Who are the prophets in our midst? One example is the prophetic mission of Pope Francis calling us to care for God's creation”
Fr. Gerry