

SUNDAY PLUS

Send me!

No local prophets

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

In today's Gospel Jesus is rejected by his own neighbours. Perhaps the neighbours have a vested interest in focusing on who Jesus was to them, rather than who he is now. It's much easier having a carpenter around the house than a prophet; it is much easier talking about broken chairs than broken lives.

Jesus reminds them that no prophet is accepted in his own homeland, and as if to prove him right the local crowd become so enraged,

they try to throw him off a cliff. But Jesus escapes, and it is no surprise that he never returns home again.

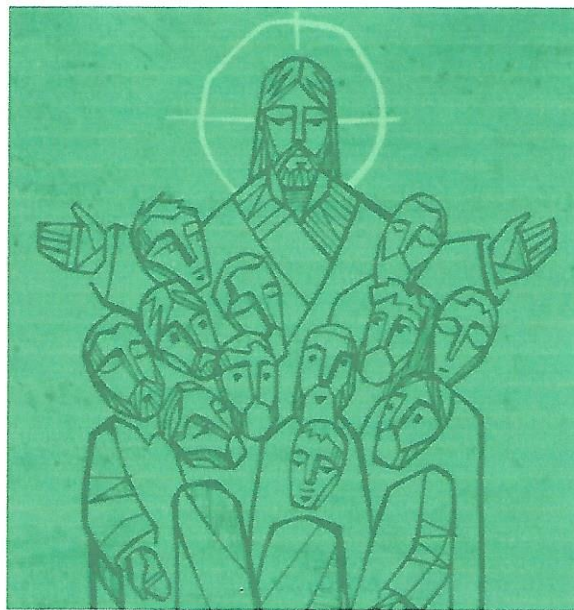
New home

We all need a place where we belong and people whom we can call our own. Usually we call that "home": where you are accepted in love for who you are, but also encouraged to become the person you could be. Perhaps the last people to accept our changes are those who live with us: they're so used to the old ways they can't believe in real change.

Jesus had to leave home

to become the person his Father wanted him to be. He couldn't rely on his own folks to foster his new life and new mission. So, he established a community, a body of people, who would recognise, as St Paul says, their need of each other. That's us. We're home for each other, pledged to support the growing life of the Spirit in each of us. In this gathering here everyone should feel welcome, and everyone should have the freedom to grow. Welcome home!

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk.



Lord Jesus, make your home in my heart. May we be inseparable companions as I travel towards you. Amen.

Set me free!

By James Gallogly

What is it that makes us feel downtrodden? It gets to us all at one time or another. Lockdown exposed this for us in ways we did not imagine.

In prison, many desire to be set free from the offending behaviour or the addiction that roots them in captivity. Hearing the message of Jesus can be a powerful step to freedom.

Too often our men struggle to believe that Jesus loves them; no one else has! Being trapped in the pain of rejection and only rewarded for crime is no way to live.

By bringing the love of Jesus into the life of another, we play a vital role in being a living part of Christ's body. In a prayer, through a card or letter sent or by the consoling visit of a chaplain this can be life-changing. The Spirit of the Lord is given... the downtrodden can seek freedom.

James Gallogly is a lay Catholic chaplain in a UK prison.

Feast of the week

Closure of Octave of Christian Unity

The Holy Spirit thus teaches us the concreteness of love for all those brothers and sisters with whom we share the same humanity, the humanity which Christ inseparably united to himself by telling us that we will always find him in the poor and those in greatest need. By serving them together, we will realise once more that we are brothers and sisters and will grow in unity. The Spirit, who renews the face of the earth, also inspires us to

care for our common home, to make bold choices about how we live and consume, for the opposite of fruitfulness is exploitation, and it is shameful for us to waste precious resources of which many others are deprived.

Dear brothers and sisters, may we remain united in Christ. May the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts make us feel children of the Father, brothers and sisters of one another, brothers and sisters in our one human family. May the Holy Trinity, communion of love, make us grow in unity.

Pope Francis

"Dear brothers and sisters, let us not ignore God's word. It is a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best. In reading it, we again hear his voice, see his face and receive his Spirit. That word brings us close to God. Let us not keep it at arm's length, but carry it with us always, in our pocket, on our phone. Let us give it a worthy place in our homes."

Pope Francis

Today:
Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Monday:
2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10
Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday:
Acts 22:3-16
or Acts 9:1-22
Mark 16:15-18

Wednesday:
2 Timothy 1:1-8
or Titus 1:1-5
Luke 10:1-9

Thursday:
2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29
Mark 4:21-25

Friday:
2 Samuel 11:1-10, 13-17
Mark 4:26-34

Saturday:
2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17
Mark 4:35-41

Next Sunday:
Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13
Luke 4:21-30