

## SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

### MARK 1:21-28

In this first chapter Mark familiarises his readers with the type of things Jesus did to proclaim the kingdom, the reign of God. Our passage today touches on two of these, the first being that 'he taught as one having authority'. It makes a difference when you listen to someone who is clearly speaking from experience and personal knowledge. Remember people who impressed you in this way.

Jesus combined teaching with healing, and he drove the evil spirit out of the man. The power of God that worked this wonder through Jesus is also at work in and through us today. When have you been freed from some bad habit?

The evil spirit convulsed the man before it left him. The path to liberation can be a painful struggle. If you have found it so, who was the Jesus person that helped you through the struggle to freedom?

It is not only individuals but groups that can be struggling with an evil spirit – jealousy, rivalry, malicious gossiping, abuse of power, etc. Sometimes a Jesus person comes into the group and drives out that evil spirit. Have you experienced this? Perhaps you yourself have been this person on some occasion?

John Byrne OSA Email: [john@orlaqh.ie](mailto:john@orlaqh.ie)

### THE DEEP END: *Genuine authority*

'But man, proud man,  
Dress'd in a little brief authority,  
Most ignorant of what he's most assur'd...'  
*Measure for Measure, William Shakespeare*

We probably wouldn't have to look too hard for examples of public figures who seem to fit the above description. Puffed up with a sense of their own importance, they are anxious to be seen as the expert on a given subject, in spite of their

limited knowledge or experience. We criticise politicians if we feel they are blind to the struggles of ordinary people. They don't know what it's like, for example, to live on a minimum wage, or to be at risk of homelessness. On the other hand, it is refreshing when those in power have faced some of these issues themselves, or have made the effort to do their research and to listen to people. We can tell when someone is speaking with genuine authority and care. Those who listen to Jesus teaching in the synagogue know there is something different and exciting about him. His teaching is in sharp contrast to the scribes they are used to hearing. The difference, stated twice in this passage, is his authority, and it leaves his audience 'astonished'. He does not use it the way we might tend to use our 'little brief authority', to make ourselves look good. Instead he uses his authority to serve, to love, and to bring mercy and freedom.

**Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co Roscommon**

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### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

In Preparation for Easter  
In a relaxed atmosphere,  
Each Monday morning for 6 weeks  
Starting **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
Time: 10.30 to 12.00  
Includes tea/coffee/ refreshments  
Where: **Salesian Convent ,Fernbank**  
If you are interested please contact:  
Elizabeth Mulvin (087-2546492)  
Sr. Margo (086-3795654)  
Please give your name by 5<sup>th</sup> February

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** will hold their monthly collection next weekend on Sat/Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> February at all Masses.

**THANK YOU FROM THE COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES:** The Columban Missionaries wish to thank you for your welcome and hospitality extended to Angie Escarsa on her visit to our Parish last November.

**CANDLEMAS DAY (2 FEBRUARY):** Candles are blessed on this day to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. You are invited to bring Candles for blessing before 2 February. They can be used in your home or in the Church. Thank you to all who donate candles for use in our Church.

**THE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** will meet in our Parish Centre with those who have been bereaved on the **First Friday, 2 February**, after **10 am Mass** to offer support in a relaxed friendly and confidential environment with a cup of tea/coffee.

**All are welcome.**

**THE LITURGY GROUP** will meet in the Parish Centre at 7.00pm on Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup>.

### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We wish to thank those who volunteered to prepare the Parish Newsletter during 2017. Additional volunteers are welcome this year.

Do you have a computer, can you type and send an e-mail? The preparation of the Parish Newsletter involves collecting information, news and a list of Mass Intentions by Wednesday from the Sacristy. Typing it up and emailing it to St John's Parish office by Friday, collecting the printed newsletters and bringing them to the Church by Saturday morning. Training will be provided. Please contact the Sacristy.

**MASS TIMES:** Please note that there is evening Mass on the First Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, at 5.45 pm. **Adoration** on First Friday will be held after 10.00 Mass until 5.00pm

**REFLECTION:** If your heart is breaking give it to God to mend.

### Parish Website

[www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie](http://www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie)

Fr. Des McAuliffe P.P. Tel: 061 324825

Fr. Tom. Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733

Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford *athurch Sacristy* Tel: 325288

Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays

17:00-17:30 Mon

09:00-12.30 Sunday

**Mass Times: Weekends:**

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

**Weekdays:**

Mon. to Fri. 10:00 ;

Mon. 17:45

Saturday 09:45

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Monday 18:15-19:00

**Baptisms:** Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Sat 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>18:00</b>	Eddie Gavin (1 <sup>st</sup> A) Maura Naughton (M.M.) Ger O'Donovan (A) Noreen Maloney (M.M.)
<b>Sun 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	Eithne Roberts (A)
	<b>11:30</b>	Liam Aherne (A)
<b>Mon 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	
	<b>17:45</b>	Humphrey Murphy (Rec.Dec.)
<b>Tues 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	Vincent Ursula & Barry O'Callaghan (A)
<b>Wed 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	
<b>Thu 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	<b>10:00</b>	Jim White (A)
<b>Fri 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	Thomas & Sarah Deegan (A)
	<b>17:45</b>	
<b>Sat 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>09:45</b>	
	<b>18:00</b>	Dermot Smalle (A)
<b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	Eddie Cahill (A)
	<b>11:30</b>	Liam O'Shanahan (A) Liam Wrenn (A) Bill & Ena Leonard (A) Mary & Declan Walsh (A)

Published by the Parish Pastoral Council