

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

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

Psalm 94

0 that today you would listen to his voice harden not your hearts.

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| 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, | 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. |
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3. 0 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."

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

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 both-er 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 af-fairs; 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.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

They went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the syna-gogue 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 every-where, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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Holy Family Church

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Priests: Fr. Peter Draper, Fr. John Moriarty (Tel: 725193)

Sunday Mass: 11.00 am.

Weekday Mass: Thur: 9.15am. (Other weekdays: 9.15am at St. Anthony's)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: on request

Holy Family Primary school: 727471 **Covenant Books:** 735993

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Inner Authority

'There are two great strains in spiritual teaching: the priestly strain which respectfully holds the system together, and the prophetic strain which critiques the system, correcting and refining it from within. Moses both gathers Israel yet is the most critical of his own people. Jesus loves his people but is lethally critical of illusion, hypocrisy and deceit. In today's gos-pel we have an account of the first exorcism, or recognising of a demon, and it takes place in the synagogue! The only way evil can succeed is that it has to disguise itself as good and one of the best disguises is the ostensible practice of religion. This is what prophets point out.' (Richard Rohr)

'Within the wider Near East (including Judaism itself), there was also a third, albeit unofficial strain of religious authority: a moshel moshelim, or teacher of wisdom, one who taught the ancient traditions of the transformation of the human being. The hallmark of these wisdom teachers was their use of pithy sayings, puzzles, and parables rather than prophetic pro-nouncements or divine decree. They spoke to people in the language that people spoke, the language of story rather than law. They stayed close to the ground of wisdom: the transfor-mation of human consciousness. They asked those timeless and deeply personal questions: How do you go about losing your little life to find the bigger one? Is it possible to live on this planet with a generosity, abundance, fearlessness, and beauty that mirror Divine Being it-self? These are the wisdom questions, and they are the entire field of Jesus' concern.' (Cynthia Bourgeault)

'Jesus taught that the real authority that changes the world is an inner authority which comes from people who have lost, let go, and are refound on a new level. Unless we have walked through suffering, failure or humiliation, our words will tend to be fine but superficial, okay but harmless, heard by the ears but unable to touch the soul. Information from outer authority is not necessarily transformation, and we need genuinely transformed people to-day, not just people with answers. When the people in the temple listened to the 'new teaching' of Jesus, they recognised his inner authority. And they were amazed i.e. filled with wonder.' (R.Rohr)

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

31st January 2021

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 30th January 2021

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H. Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Johnny Greenwood Mildred Slack Marie & Tom Hooper	<i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Racial Justice Day</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kathleen Darwin	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Julia O'Malley	<i>Feast: Presentation of the Lord</i>
Wed 9.15am 11.15am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Alexander Latham Funeral Service: Alexander Latham	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H Family</i>	Julia & David	
Fri 9.15am 11.45am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Joseph Welsby Funeral Service: Joseph Welsby	<i>Feast: St. Agatha</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Private intention	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H. Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Winnie Gildea For our parish Private intention	<i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>

Masses received this week: Julia & David, Julia O'Malley

BIDDING PRAYERS

Tuesday marks the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, traditionally called Candlemas. May the universal Church always truly celebrate Christ as the Light of the World.

On this Racial Justice Sunday may we respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit to set the downtrodden free, and in the words of Pope Francis may we welcome, protect, promote and integrate with all of God's people.

We pray for all in this parish touched by Covid: Lord, strengthen us in our loss and pain, in our resilience, and in our compassion and service.

We pray for the sick and the housebound of our parish and for those who care for them, particularly: Harold Slack, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Malaya, Ray Mannion, Bill York, Vera, Lawrence Dunnagan, Trevor Hughes, Claire, Joyce Hilton, Rev John Kilshaw;

those who have died recently: Johnny Greenwood, Martin Banks, Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue, Alexander Latham, Joseph Welsby;

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Christine Bowman, Bob Worcester, Lawrence Culshaw, Rose Eastham, Helen Spencer, Dorothy Wignall, Rene Hall, Margaret Mary Gorton, Ann Waddington, Winifred Kelsey, Elizabeth Walker, Julius Smith, Bertha Billington, Tom Davies, May they rest in peace.

Livestreaming Mass

We are able to celebrate Mass in church as normal in our churches but we are now able to livestream the 9.30am Mass from St. Anthony's church. Go to the St. Anthony of Padua YouTube page and look for the link there. Although the sound of the priest and the reader is good you will not be able to hear the responses from the congregation - you can make those yourself! Although you cannot obviously receive holy communion while watching this streaming you could make your own spiritual communion at this time, as follows:

My Jesus, I believe You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since at this moment I cannot receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue, Bishop of Lancaster (2001 –2009)

Our former bishop died last Sunday. As is the practice in Ireland, his funeral took place two days later in his home town church. Due to the pandemic neither our bishop nor anyone else was allowed to travel any distance to attend the Funeral Mass though it was streamed live on the internet. It is probably still available on www.rip.ie A Diocesan memorial Mass will be arranged later. May he rest in peace.

Racial Justice Sunday 31st January

The theme is 'A Time to Act'. Racial issues and inequalities were identified nationally and internationally in 2020 generating awareness, emotion and outrage. In light of this Racial Justice Sunday 2021 is particularly significant. Action is needed to further the cause of racial justice but what can we do? Resources are available on <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/racial-justicesunday-2021/>

First Holy Communions and Confirmations

It seems unlikely that we'll be able to celebrate first Holy Communions for the foreseeable future. We'll have another look at the situation after Easter. It is very sad for the children who are at the stage when they could be taking this great step forward in their faith. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Confirmations may also have to be delayed until next year.

Castlerigg Youth Service

The Youth Service at Castlerigg Manor are launching two online groups for young people to come together, have a laugh, make some friends, and deepen their faith.

Overflow, an online group for 18-30s, begins on Monday 1st February. See www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/overflow to sign up.

Rise, for young people in years 7 to 9 begins in March, but sign up now to keep up to date www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/riseonline

Walk for Water

CAFOD has written to remind us that in 2021 the UK is set to host two major international meetings –the G7 and the UN Climate Talks (COP26). Climate change means that access to clean water is becoming more unpredictable. We know that one in three people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water. This Lent, can you take on our 'Walk for Water' challenge? Sign up, get sponsored and get walking -10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/walk