

# Theme of the Week - The Holy One of God

The Gospel from Sunday is quite a powerful one that can link to our everyday lives. Maybe not because of the actual event that happened but more so the meaning behind the event and what we prioritise as important and why we do this! Before we look more closely at the Gospel, we must just relate to the importance of the 1<sup>st</sup> reading as it adds weight to the message from Jesus. The 1<sup>st</sup> reading on Sunday is from the Book of Deuteronomy which outlines the laws of Jewish life including that of the role and purpose of Prophets (those who proclaim the will of God). In the 1<sup>st</sup> reading we hear from the Prophet Moses (considered a very important Prophet in Judaism) who said this: *'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'*. Jesus would be a fulfilment of the law and the prophet. In today's readings, there is a strong link between the description of a true prophet as the mouthpiece of God and a scene where Jesus is described as one who teaches the people "with authority". — God is the source of this authority.

In the Gospel, we see the authority given to Jesus over sin and evil. The Gospel is really an extraordinary story as an illustration of the authority and power of Jesus in a simple setting. By relating the extraordinary right alongside the ordinary, Mark (the writer of the Gospel) reveals to us the enormous impression that Jesus made on the everyday lives of the people. We have Jesus teaching in the temple, not extraordinary, there were often teachers speaking in the temple on the Sabbath, there would have been many people around listening and fulfilling their Sabbath duties according to the law. Jesus though taught with astonishing conviction catching every one's attention, but that wasn't too extraordinary; then against this background of the ordinary routine someone possessed by "an evil spirit" began shouting at Jesus accusing him and calling him "God's Holy One" and we know the rest of the story and how Jesus' fame began to spread around the surrounding countryside. What a shock to the lives of the complacent, the ordinary: here was someone said to be from God who spoke with amazing authority and had power over evil spirits, - this news travelled like wild fire throughout the countryside, this was the big news of the time! It is significant that Jesus speaks with authority and that he cleans the unclean. Only one with wisdom, experience and knowledge can speak with authority. Only one with understanding can be trusted. Only one with a vision of the clean can cure the unclean.

Why then is this story powerful and relates to our lives? Think about the world we live in and what as a society we class as newsworthy! When you switch on the news today, you see death, theft, floods, disasters, war - sin and evil mainly! We live in an age where self-interest is at the heart of many but we are called to base our lives on a far greater authority than simply oneself. Jesus in his authority tells us to examine the Good News and realise it in our everyday life. In a world where negativity is so prevalent, we need to allow one another to see the Good news so we too can make it the big news of the times!

# The Holy One of God

Weekly Reflections  
28th January 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (1:21-28)

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue 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 everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

## Prayer for the Week

God our Father, in your son Jesus you gave him your authority to teach us with knowledge and wisdom.

Instil within us this knowledge and wisdom so we too can teach others to become learned and wise.

Amen

**Feast Day** - John Bosco 31<sup>st</sup>  
January



John "Don" Bosco was the youngest of three brothers raised in poverty. He lost his father at a young age but his mother played a strong role in his upbringing and supported his ideals. He was ordained in 1841 and devoted himself to the young and poor. Bosco set up artisanal workshops to educate impoverished boys. The Salesian Teaching Order was formally approved in 1874 and soon spread around the world. John Bosco was:

### Day 1

What is a prophet?

Why do you think God sent Moses as a prophet?

How does Jesus in the Gospel fulfil the message given to us by Moses?

### Day 2

Is there any teacher in school or adult you know who has the gift of speaking with authority?

Someone you can just listen too?

How do you think people felt when they not only heard Jesus but also saw what he did?

### Day 3

Think about the news you read or watch? How often do you see the Good news presented to you?

How can we show the Good news to one another in our class, school and school community to make it the authority we live by?

# Learned and Wise