



St. Mary's Cathedral

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This Week 29th January 2012 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Yr B/2 – Deut 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28



We've all had to put up with boring speeches or sermons from time to time, whether it be from politicians, preachers, at school speech nights or the local service or sports club. Every now and then though we come across someone who really arrests our attention. It mightn't be only that he or she puts words together well; it's often a combination of that and something in the content that strikes a chord. Maybe we are even envious of the obvious gift that person has. This is surely how Jesus came across to those people in the synagogue. This was someone quite different; they

had had their share of the run of the mill scribes with their tired old platitudes. Here was someone who really meant what he said and was able to back it up with fearless engagement with a power from which they shrank in ignorance and doubt.

It is not without importance that this is the first public appearance of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. Over the next few weeks we will witness the popular acceptance of Jesus as he battles with a force that takes various forms – physical sickness, opposition from entrenched mindsets, the accusation of collusion with the enemy itself. This is the 'gospel', the good news that Jesus invites the people to accept readily by changing their lives.

The same 'gospel' is offered to us for we are dealing with a power that can change our lives, not merely a set of nice, pious sayings. Too often we reduce the gospels to that and so remain relatively unmoved by the dynamic challenge they contain.

As we know, in that society possession by 'unclean spirits' was a general term that covered all kinds of conditions for which we today have medical or social explanations and sophisticated labels. We can therefore approach these stories with a type of superiority as if they either don't occur anymore or are best left to experts to deal with.

Continued./.

Mass Times: Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm Sunday: 7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass) & 6.00pm Youth Mass

Monday to Friday: 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm; Saturday: 9.00am & 12noon, Public Holidays: 12noon

Reconciliation: Monday-Friday 12noon -1.00pm & 5.00pm to 5.25pm EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Saturday 11.30am-11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm- SUNDAY FREE TOURS – (UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)

St Columbkille's McElhone Street Woolloomooloo - Sunday Mass 9.00am - Rosary at 8.40am

Friday Novena- with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 12noon. Devotions will conclude at 1.00pm with

First Reading Dt 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

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."

The Word of the Lord

Second Reading 1 Cor 7:32-35

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

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 bother 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 affairs; 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.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9

*(R.) If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

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. *(R.)*

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. *(R.)*

O 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.' *(R.)*

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Yet isn't it true that all of us are 'possessed' in different ways by forces over which we have to admit to having little or no control? Some people are enslaved by addictions to drugs, alcohol, food, gambling and so on. Many of us suffer from more subtle addictions so that we don't even want to admit to ourselves, let alone to anyone else, that we are virtually powerless to control them. All of us know deep down that many of our habits and ways of dealing with others are so much a part of our make up that we can do little to change them.

The people who acclaimed Jesus realised that he had something special that could influence them to change their lives. The authority and healing power of Jesus is present today in his body, the Church, through the Sacraments, but also in the love, care and compassion of every community of faith. We only have to look around us when we are gathered for the Eucharist to name it and accept it. It is when the Church is able to back up teaching and doctrine with the same concern for the troubled lives of ordinary people that it is most effective in continuing the mission of Jesus. That is why in the Gospels he is always accompanied by followers learning how to be genuine 'fishers of men'.

Fr Chris Hope

Cathedral Staff:

Father Paul Hilder - Dean
Father Danai Penollar
Father Brendan Purcell
Father John Flynn

Chris Backhouse - Cathedral Sacristan
Timon Briscoe-Hough - Assistant Sacristan

Thomas Wilson - Director of Music
Oliver Brett - Assistant Director of Music
Dominic Moawad - Assistant Organist
Michael Butterfield - Organ Scholar

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**Cardinal's tribute to rail disaster hero priests
Happy New Year of the Dragon
'Peace, sublime joy' when Daniel first felt the call
Retiree who cares for needs of retired priests
Vestments on show for first time in Cathedral Crypt**



COELIACS: Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at St Mary's Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before the commencement of Mass.

EMBRACE - CATHEDRAL YOUTH GROUP: Visit www.embrace-stmarys.org

RED MASS: Monday, 30th January 2012 - The annual Red Mass will be celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Pell at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on Monday, 30 January 2012 at 9.00 am. The Red Mass marks the commencement of the judicial term and invokes the guidance of the Holy Spirit on those who seek and administer justice. All are warmly invited to attend, especially all those who work in the courts and the legal profession. Inquiries: Michael McAuley, St Thomas More Society, 0409 115 981.

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST RETREAT with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecelia: Calling all Single Catholic women aged 18-35 to join us for a weekend of prayer, talks by the Sisters, discussion and joyful moments. *Theme:* Preparing for the year of Grace from the 24th to the 26th of February, 2012 at the Hermitage, Mittagong. For more information or to register, contact the Sisters at Sydney@op-tn.org.

TOURS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: If you are interested in the beauty, sculpture and sacredness of our beautiful mother Church, St Mary's Cathedral, join a "Free Tour" every Sunday after the 10.30a.m. Mass. Please meet with your tour guide at the West entry to the Cathedral (near the organ). School and group tours are also available on weekdays at 10am, 10.30am and 1.45pm. *Please note: no tours on Fridays. The Crypt can be closed at short notice.* Please give Mariola a call on 9220 0400 to book your tour.

HURRY - LAST FIVE PERFORMANCES! Must finish on 4th February 2012! Terra Nova - By Ted Tally-Directed by Mark Langham & Owen Gimblett: To commemorate the centenary of Robert Falcon Scott's final expedition to Antarctica we are proud to present this gripping tale of that final race for the pole. The play by Academy Award winning writer Ted Tally ranges from domestic scenes with Scott's wife, Sculptor Kathleen Bruce, to exploring his bitter rivalry with the Norwegian Roald Amundsen and examining the bond between the five hardy men who made the courageous final trek to the South Pole. Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm. Sunday Matinée at 4.30pm. For bookings please contact the boxoffice@genesiantheatre.com.au or visit the website www.genesiantheatre.com.au the Genesian Theatre 420 Kent Street, Sydney.

SUMMER 2012! GO DEEPER WITH YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH! The Catholic Centre, 3 Keating Street, Lidcombe.

The Early Church - Lecturer: Robert Haddad. Mondays 6th February - 26th of March, 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Cost \$105.

Greek (New Testament) - Lecturer: Thomas Flynn. Mondays 6th February - 26th March. 8.15pm - 9.45pm. Cost \$105.

The Sacraments - Lecturer: Fr Paul Rowse OP and James McDonald. Thursdays 9th February - 29th March. 6.30pm - 8.00pm. Cost \$105.

The Gospel of John - Lecturer: Robert Tilley. Thursdays 8.15pm - 9.45pm. 9th February

