

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today we learn that the good news offered by Jesus is for **everyone**, not just for Christians. We're invited to reach out in love to people who are outside of our usual circles.

Today's Readings

Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19

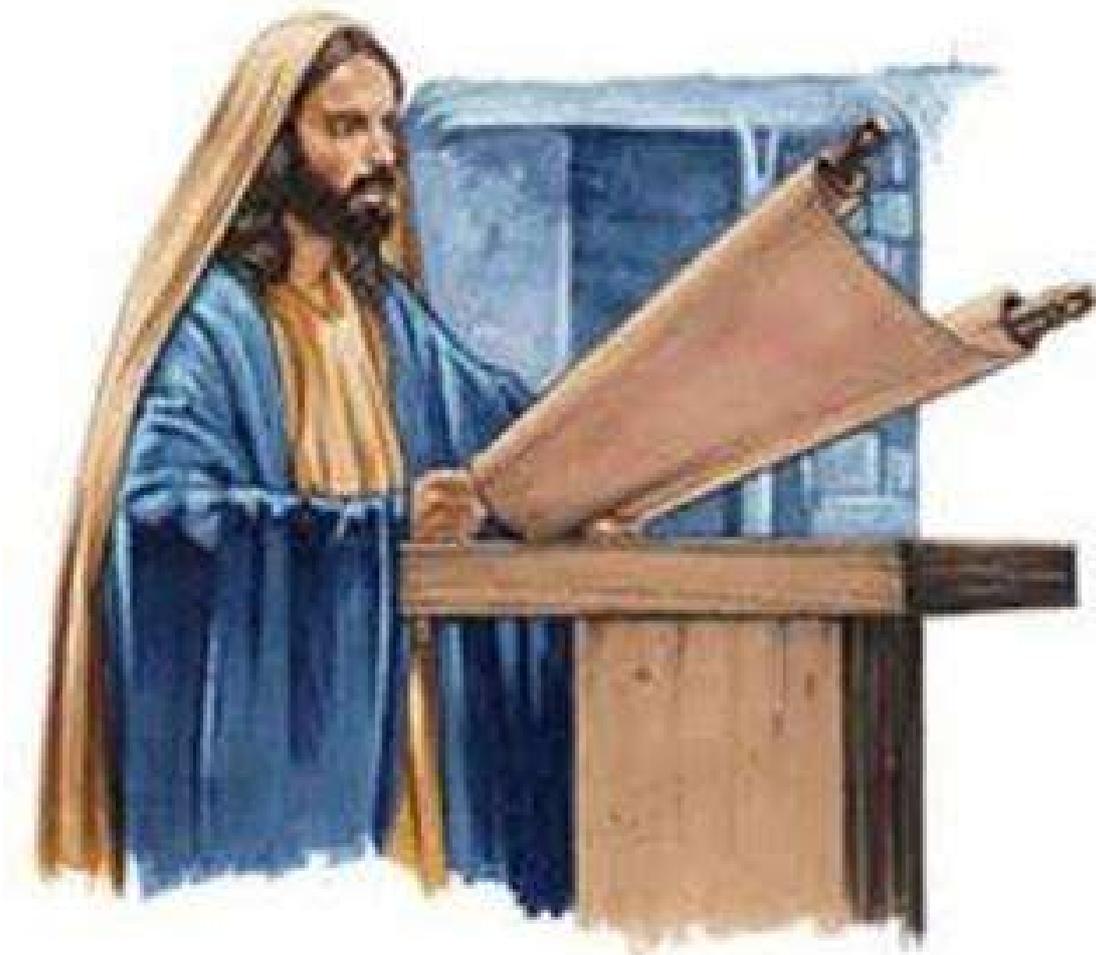
We are all called by God from the moment of our creation in the womb for one purpose: life with God. The opportunity is there for us to make a difference in our world.

1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13

The greatest spiritual gift is love. Love is not just a feeling; it is a way of life that includes a commitment to others.

Luke 4:21-30

Jesus is rejected by the people of Nazareth. They go in a short time from marvelling at his words to turning into a mob threatening to kill him.



Reflection

When Jesus preached in the synagogue at Nazareth, he quoted the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah spoke about the signs they should look out for, to show **when** the Messiah had come.

His words pleased the crowd - as we hear at the beginning of today's Gospel. But, very quickly the mood changes! Jesus was not a "crowd-pleaser" - he wasn't interested in saying the "right things" to be popular or accepted. He was interested in the truth.

So today, when Jesus points out that salvation is not just for the Jews, they reject the message and the messenger. Just like Jeremiah, when he was called to be a prophet (first reading),

Jesus announced, "**Today** this passage is being fulfilled while you're listening to it." Jesus was declaring that the Messianic times had begun in him. We're told that, at first, the people marvelled at the gracious words spoken by the carpenter Joseph's son. They were willing to accept Jesus for what he could do for them, for their personal advantage. Yet they wondered since he performed miracles elsewhere, why he hadn't worked any in his own hometown? But, when Jesus identified himself as a prophet, he was no longer accepted. Prophets called the people to accountability for their lack of faith in God and their lack of justice and mercy toward other people. Jesus compared his ministry to that of the prophets Elijah and Elisha who were rejected by their own people, yet brought healing and hope to foreigners, Gentiles. These Gentiles, "outsiders," had the wisdom to recognise the prophets in their midst.



The people were outraged by Jesus' words, and they dragged him from the synagogue. When they tried to throw him over a cliff; Jesus miraculously eluded them. This incident prefigured the persecution that Jesus continually faced. He would find no escape from his ultimate fate on Calvary.



Communion, Participation, Mission.”

Pope Francis said, stressing that the synod is a church moment, not a parliament or an investigation into opinions, but “an ecclesial moment” whose protagonist is the Holy Spirit. “Without the Spirit, there is no synod.”.

“Enabling **everyone** to participate is an essential ecclesial duty!” (Pope Francis).

1. It requires **changing** certain overly vertical, distorted and partial visions of the Church, of the priestly ministry, of the role of the laity, of ecclesial responsibilities, of roles of governance and so on
2. Another risk that a synod can run into is **becoming intellectual**, offering learned but abstract approaches to the problems of the Church and the evils in our world, which are far removed from the reality of the Holy People of God and the concrete life of communities around the world
3. A danger that a synod should avoid, the Pope said, is the temptation to **complacency**, which says, “we’ve always done it this way; it is better not to change”. People with this approach , apply old solutions to new problems. The Holy Father stressed that the synodal process be exactly this: “a process of becoming, a process that involves the local Churches, in different phases and from the bottom up, in an exciting and engaging effort that can forge a style of communion and participation directed to mission.”

THE SYNOD

Pope Francis has launched a worldwide 'synod' process.

Synod simply means 'journeying together'.

*The Holy Father is inviting us to listen deeply to one another and to discern what God is saying to the Church about **how** we 'journey together'. We will have our own synodal pathway, in our parish and within the various communities, united with our Diocese of Brentwood and with every diocese across the world.*

After national and continental gatherings, the Synod of Bishops will gather in Rome in 2023 to reflect on what has been heard.



Synod Prayer

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.*

*With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.*

*We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.*

*Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor
partiality influence our actions.*

*Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey
together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.*

*All this we ask of you,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,*

forever and ever.

Amen.

GOSPEL WORDSEARCH

A	R	E	D	F	S	U	H	T	E	SYNAGOGUE	WORDS	PHYSICIAN
N	N	U	E	D	A	E	O	N	L	LIPS	HEAL	PROPHET
N	W	G	R	S	A	M	A	N	I	COUNTRY	WIDOWS	SHUT
T	O	O	U	L	W	I	I	W	P	FAMINE	LEPERS	NONE
E	W	G	C	Y	C	O	O	N	S			
H	S	A	N	I	A	R	D	O	E			
P	T	N	S	O	H	D	N	I	A			
O	U	Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	W			
R	H	S	R	E	P	E	L	T	A			
P	S	D	E	G	A	R	N	E	Y			

