



Society of African Missions

23 Bliss Avenue
 Tenafly, NJ 07670
 Phone: 201-567-0450
 Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior
Fr Dermot Roache,
 House Superior

Mass Schedule

Sundays
 10:00 am; 12 noon
Weekdays & Holy Days
 11:45 am
Christmas & New Year's Day
 10:00 am; 12 noon

Confessions

By appointment. Contact
 Fr Dermot Roache 201-567-0450 Ext 212

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. Dermot Roache
 201-567-0450 Ext. 212

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Julien Esse, SMA
 551-449-4357

Sunday Collection: \$563

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of January 31, 2021 - February 6, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. Jan. 31	10:00	Peter Cody+	Susan Cody
	12:00	Anthony Cortez (Liv.)	Erlinda Cortez
Mon. Feb. 1	9:30	Dec. Members of the Guiney Family	
	11:45	Norvic Arabia+ Maria Nemia Aguirre+	Linda Rubio
Tue. Feb. 2	9:30	Dec. Members of the McCarthy Families	
	11:45	Regina & Dennis Yumang (Liv.) Healing	Linda Rubio
Wed. Feb. 3	9:30	Mary Laird+	
	11:45	Thanksgiving & Healing	Guinto Family
Thurs. Feb. 4	9:30	Vincent & Emma Haggerty+	Kathleen Jaeger
	11:45	Souls of Purgatory	Victoria Costa
Fri. Feb. 5	9:30	Neill & Forgrave Families Special Intention	
	11:45	Stoever & Mongiello Families Special Intention	
Sat. Feb. 6	9:30	Neill & Forgrave Families Special Intention	
	11:45	Benny Walsh+	Joan Mallon

Reminder:

February 3, the feast
 day of **Saint Blaise of
 Sebaste.**

The **Blessing of the
 Throats** will be after
 the 11:45 am Mass
 and also upon
 request.

Today's Readings:

First Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20

God's words will be placed on the lips of a Moses-like prophet who is raised up from among his kinsfolk.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Paul sees the unmarried person as single-mindedly committed to the Lord.

Gospel Mark 1:21-28

Jesus speaks with an authority that leaves the people spellbound, and with a similar authority he drives out evil spirits.

“And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere.”

Illustration

“And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere”: that is how today’s Gospel ends, but it is by no means the end of the story; Jesus’ reputation has continued to spread for the past two thousand years and across all the continents. There are countless souls whose lives he has touched and, in some cases, transformed totally; millions upon millions of ordinary people – people like ourselves – who have, to a greater or lesser extent, come to know and love him.

In 1991 the British boxer Michael Watson was left permanently paralysed after a bout with Chris Eubank. The brain surgeon who conducted the initial operation on Michael thought he would die; later, the doctors said that he would never walk again. But twelve years later he managed to complete the London Marathon; he walked it at the rate of two hours each morning and two hours each afternoon, finally completing the whole course in six days. He was accompanied on the last leg of his marathon by the man who had brought disaster into his life; they’d become good friends. Indeed, Watson eventually wondered if it had been a disaster after all. “Getting angry”, he said, “won’t change the past. Before the accident I wasn’t a Christian. Now Jesus is my inspiration. How can you fail to be moved by the words of Jesus on the cross: ‘Father, forgive them’?”

Gospel Teaching

The Jewish people revered Moses; they looked upon him as the greatest of their prophets, the greatest of God’s spokespeople, but as we heard in today’s first reading, Moses promised: “Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves.” That was the promise; the Gospel in dramatic fashion shows its fulfilment.

It’s the sabbath day; in the local synagogue Jesus is invited to preach. The people are deeply impressed. In their astonishment, they ask each other what it can all mean. Jesus is a prophet like no other; his teaching is teaching with a difference: for he teaches with authority. Other religious leaders simply pass on what they’ve learned from others, but Jesus’ teaching seems to well up from within himself. And he displays this authority not only in his words but also in his actions: he puts unclean spirits, devils, to flight. It’s been said that in Mark’s Gospel Jesus does not merely appear on the scene, he explodes onto it. His appearance is dramatic. Who can ignore a man like this? Indeed, who is he? Where does his power come from?

Application

So Mark’s Gospel isn’t only a drama: it’s a challenge. What do I make of Jesus Christ? Who is he for me? Who is he, not just in theory but in practice; not just on Sundays but in the living of my daily life? And what about evil spirits? Did Jesus come to conquer them? In our modern, scientific world, we perhaps smile a little at the very mention of such beings. But are there not evil forces in each of us, forces that threaten our well-being and that of others, dark forces like pride, selfishness, lust, envy and bitterness that can so easily come bubbling up to the surface? And might not these be described as evil spirits? And then on the world stage, too: if we think of wars, crimes, ethnic cleansings, terrorism, the use of torture, and global warming caused by human misuse of the world’s resources – we might ask what drives human beings to do these things.

If today’s Gospel highlights the authority of Christ’s teaching, it is perhaps not surprising that the responsorial psalm should urge us to “listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.” And if we listen, what shall we hear? Many things, but it will all come down to this: your God loves you, you are God’s child; God has prepared a place for you in God’s kingdom. Do not be afraid, God can conquer every evil that threatens your happiness. Live for God and for your sisters and brothers. When the people in the synagogue heard Jesus preach, they said: “Here is a teaching that is new.” And when we truly listen to him – not merely with our ears but our hearts – then his teaching is always new, always carrying an appeal and a freshness, as though we were hearing it for the first time. It is always Gospel, always good news.

The Living Word

HOLY HOUR

Saturday, February 13, at 8:00pm

NOTE: Wednesday, February 17th marks the beginning of Lent. Ashes will be distributed after 11:45 am Mass and upon request.