

Parish Newsletter

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 8 JULY 2018
CYCLE B | ISSUE 32

ASSUMING, presuming, and taking for granted are probably the most dangerous things a person can do. We've all had close calls when we realised that we were a millimetre from disaster – sometimes because of what we have done or failed to do. Taking things, be it a marriage, a job, an ability, a person – or even God – for granted is dangerous. I recall once on a twinning trip abroad, hearing reps from my community late on a very enjoyable Saturday night say that they would “skip” the “twinning” Mass the next morning. As my host was the local priest (shared over five parishes) I knew that this Mass was put on specially for us, as they only had Sunday Mass every five weeks. I shared this and to their credit, the Irish delegation showed up. All were good people, just maybe we had taken things for granted as regards God. More personally, once when buckling in my mother's wheelchair into the transporter after yet another clinic – I didn't do a good job. I was lucky and no injury was caused her when she fell from the chair. To this day, I think of what my carelessness, even through tiredness, could have done. We can all lose our taste, our zest, our first love – whatever it may be. Familiarity can breed casualness, indifference, and sometimes, contempt. Which is what happened



TAKING FOR GRANTED

in Nazareth. It's hard to impress in your home town alright, but this was more a case of scepticism and cynicism. The reasoning was solid – he's a carpenter, not a miracle worker. He's Mary's son, not God's son. For them, God's glory was hidden behind a veil of ordinariness. They thought they knew him.

As a priest, moving parish means you need to be wary and (at times) deaf, to what is related to you about others. We all need to remember that hearsay can be based on a skewed experience and heavily prejudiced. Your neighbours and critics will throw in their negative “Who do they think they are?” and “I knew them when ...” but only each one of us individually can remain true to our God-given identity and dignity. Nothing and no one can ever reduce

or remove that – unless you let them. Negativity paralyses and it's striking that it was no different for Jesus back home in Nazareth. It even blocked his healing work. It's a bit like having a thorn in our flesh as in the second reading, or a pebble in the shoe. Sometimes you have to limp and hobble in life and move on. ■

– Tom Cox

THIS WEEK (9-15 JULY)

- 9 **Mon** St Augustine Zhao Rong & comp.
- 10 **Tue** St Anthony of Kiev; St Fortunatus
- 11 **Wed** St Benedict, abbot, Patron of Europe
- 12 **Thur** St John Jones, martyr
- 13 **Fri** St Henry
- 14 **Saf** St Camillus de Lellis, priest
- 15 **Sun** FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS



Amos 7:12-15
Psalm 84:9-14
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:7-13

Reflection

In which ways is Jesus rejected by his own people today?

Lesson

Those who lay claim to discipleship must be willing to relinquish all power in order to profess faith.

Prayer

Lord, open our ears to hear your word, make our hearts receptive to your call and enable us to receive you in faith.