



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

FED BY THE WORD

*A joyful, inclusive community ...each growing
in personal relationship with Christ*

**4TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B, 2020**

"Fan into flame the gift of God..." 2 Tim 1: 6-7

THE GOSPEL

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.

Starting Out

Context:

This gospel is Mark's account of Jesus' first miracle. He casts out an unclean spirit in the synagogue. Everyone recognises the authority behind Jesus' words and actions.

What word or phrase are you being drawn to by the Holy Spirit?

What idea in this gospel speaks most to your own life right now?

The reading causes us to reflect that Jesus teaches in words and actions which match up with each other. How does this compare to our own life in Him? Does that impact on our authority as a follower of Christ?

Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to a new insight or action?

Ready to go deeper

Context:

Jesus casts out an unclean spirit in the synagogue. People recognise the authority of His words, unlike the words of their own community leaders.

- 1. What word or phrase are you drawn to by the Spirit in this week's gospel?**
- 2. The consistency of Jesus' words and actions is the reason the community instantly recognises His authority. His power is authentic power. What is our experience of 'consistent Christianity?'**
- 3. What would change in our community's impact if people were 'amazed' at the consistency of our words and actions? What would change in our community itself?**
- 4. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you about Christian authority through this gospel? Is there a step you might take as a result?**