

Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

Jesus of Nazareth

INTRODUCTION

In the time of Jesus, Nazareth was a little town in the hill country of Galilee. Jesus spent his childhood there, living with his parents Mary and Joseph. During a visit to Nazareth he found that he was not welcome anymore!

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read (*cf Matthew 5:16-17*):

Jesus said, 'Let your goodness shine out like a light in the darkness, so that through you, the love of our heavenly Father will touch the lives of others.'

SORRY

The words of St Paul remind us how we should live as brothers and sisters in Christ (*cf Colossians 3:12-14, 23*):

Always be ready to care for others, and to be kind and gentle. Be patient and calm, and never boast or feel proud of your goodness. Just as God always forgives you, so you must always forgive others. Fill your heart with love, and whatever you do, do it for God.

Allow a few moments for quiet reflection.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1: *Share your word with us.*

GOSPEL (*cf Mark 6:1-6*)

Jesus returned to his home town of Nazareth with his disciples, and on the Sabbath day, he went to the synagogue to preach. The people there were amazed by his wisdom and all that he said, and many of them had heard of the miracles that he had worked. But some of the crowd asked, 'Surely this is Joseph the carpenter's son? Isn't his family still living here in Nazareth? How can he know all these things and talk in this way?' They would not listen to Jesus or believe in him. Jesus was saddened and disappointed by their lack of faith and he left Nazareth to go and preach elsewhere.

DISCUSSION

Which town did Jesus come from? – Nazareth. This is why Jesus was called 'Jesus of Nazareth'.

Who did Jesus know, who was still living in

Nazareth? – We are told that his family were living there.

Why were the people amazed by Jesus? – Many of them had grown up with Jesus, gone to school together and worshipped with him at the synagogue every week. They knew him as Jesus, the ordinary son of an ordinary couple, Mary and Joseph. Suddenly he had come back and was able to perform miracles and explain the word of God as no-one else could. Jesus of Nazareth was no longer just the carpenter's son!

Was everyone ready to listen to Jesus and to believe in him? – Very few people were willing to listen or believe in Jesus. They doubted his power and his message of love and goodness.

What did Jesus do? – He left Nazareth and travelled from place to place, bringing his message to those who were willing to listen and believe that he was indeed the Son of God.

How can we make Jesus welcome? – By welcoming his word and all that he teaches us. Welcoming him in the people we meet every day, and by opening our hearts to his love and making him a part of our daily lives.

ACTIVITY

Hand out enlarged copies of these pictures. They can be coloured, stuck on card and arranged on a mobile. Discuss the role of Jesus in each illustration, as he reveals himself as the Son of God.

CREED

Each week we tell God and each other all the special things that we believe. Help us to think about this as we say the words of the Creed today.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, may our belief in you help others to find you for themselves and believe in you too.