

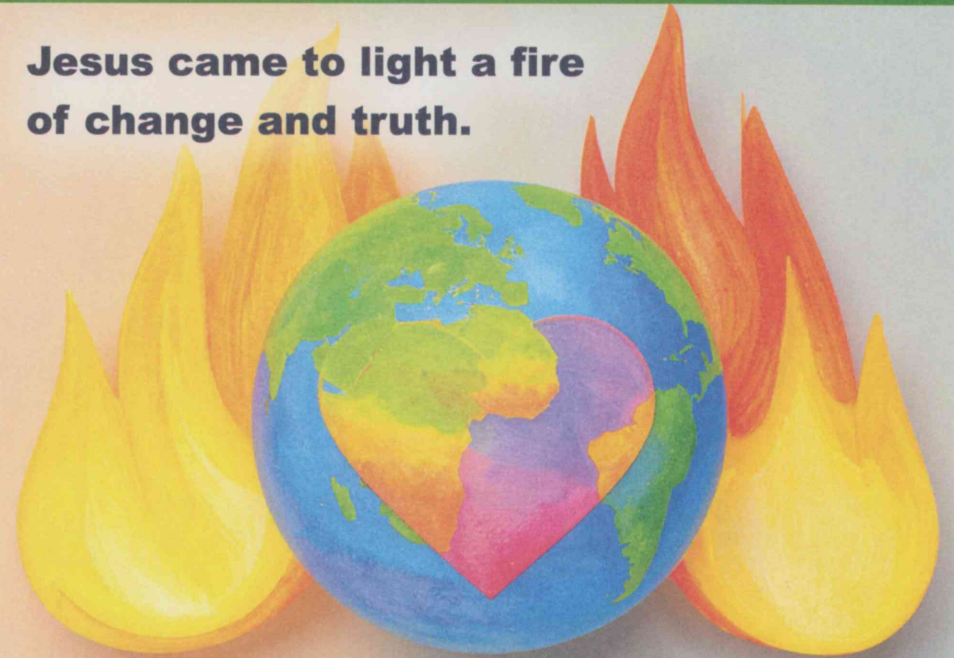


focus on sunday

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 17th August 2025

The word of Christ will often make demands of honesty and truth; our stand for him will sometimes bring us into opposition with others.

Jesus came to light a fire of change and truth.



The gospel today presents Jesus as a troublemaker. The fire of his message and love will divide people. Even in families, as the early community well knew. Maybe it was like the civil war in any country which pits brothers against brothers, and family members against each other.

Religion, even the following of Jesus, has divided people. In our own Ireland, wars raged for many years. No doubt there was a mixture of politics, greed and religion involved, but our religious sense was not strong enough to make peace for many years. In the modern world we see Christian values being portrayed as "too woke" by one side and too conservative by the other.

There is opposition to the values of Jesus in situations like abortion, euthanasia, sexuality, family, migration and asylum seekers, and others. People have put themselves in danger in many countries for these, and for the right to religious freedom. There have been more martyrs for Christian faith in the last 100 years than in the history of the church. Jesus causes trouble, not because he wants to, but because his message threatens their safety and security.

Jesus causes division too within us. There are the desires in us for all the good ideas and values of Jesus, and desires that are opposite. St Ignatius highlights that wealth, honour and pride often deflect us off the path of Jesus. Don't we know this well?

Jesus knew the joy of following through on what is right and loving, even to death. This is the call and the joy of the follower of Jesus. Knowing that we are forgiven for all by an understanding God.

Give me the strength of your good Spirit O Lord, to live according to your gospel.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus tells us that God's Love is like fire. Without fire there would be no light, and how could we cook food, or travel in cars, and airplanes, or find new things in space? With fire too, we can hurt people, and destroy countries and property. We ask God to help us to use the blessing of fire to make a better world, to care, to share, to love God's people and enjoy God's creation.



Liturgical texts: concordat cum originali: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin Other texts: cum permissu: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin. Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal: © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The Jerusalem version of the Scripture is copyright Darton, Lonanman & Todd & Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail or Geoffrey Chaucer Ltd.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have
failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us.....
Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer; you are seated
at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**



OPENING PRAYER

O God, who have prepared for those
who love you good things which no eye
can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the
warmth of your love, so that, loving you
in all things and above all things, we may
attain your promises, which surpass every
human desire.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The king's leading men spoke to the
king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he
is unquestionably disheartening the
remaining soldiers in the city, and all the

people too, by talking like this. The fellow
does not have the welfare of this people
at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in
your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah
answered 'for the king is powerless
against you.' So they took Jeremiah and
threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah
in the Court of the Guard, letting him down
with ropes. There was no water in the
well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah
sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace
and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he
said 'these men have done a wicked thing
by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this:
they have thrown him into the well where
he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-
melech the Cushite the following order:
'Take three men with you from here and
pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well
before he dies.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 39:2-4.18*

R. Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. **[R]**
2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. **[R]**
3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. **[R]**
4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay. **[R]**

SECOND READING *Hebrews 12:1-4*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

With so many witnesses in a great cloud
on every side of us, we too, then, should
throw off everything that hinders us,
especially the sin that clings so easily, and
keep running steadily in the race we have
started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus,
who leads us in our faith and brings it to
perfection: for the sake of the joy which
was still in the future, he endured the
cross, disregarding the shamefulness of
it, and from now on has taken his place at
the right of God's throne.
Think of the way he stood such opposition
from sinners and then you will not give up
for want of courage. In the fight against
sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting
to the point of death.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the
words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Luke 12:49 - 53*

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come
to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it
were blazing already! There is a baptism
I must still receive, and how great is my
distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring
peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather
division. For from now on a household
of five will be divided: three against two
and two against three; the father divided
against the son, son against father,
mother against daughter, daughter
against mother, mother-in-law against
daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against
mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father; through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and
was buried, and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father
and the Son, who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,.....

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your
hands for the praise and glory of his
name, for our good and the good of all his
holy Church.

