

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 7th July 2024

Headings	Gospel (Mark 6:1-6)	First Reading (Ezekiel 2:2-5)	Second Reading (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
Context	This passage from Mark's Gospel sees Jesus return to the town of Nazareth where he was born. St Luke's Gospel describes an earlier incident where Jesus returned home and received a hostile reception from the townspeople (Luke 4:16-30)	Ezekiel was a prophet of the Old Testament. He is distinct from other prophets in that he received his calling as an exile in Babylon. He tried to arouse faith in his fellow exiles and keep alive their hope of returning to Jerusalem.	In this message Paul centers his teaching on avoiding occasions of pride developing. He uses his sufferings and weakness as an opportunity to abandon himself completely to the Lord's provision. Calling on him in his many disturbances. For it is God's graces that make him strong.
Key verse	“ This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and...And they would not accept him.	“I am sending you to them, to say, The Lord says this. “ Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them”	“My grace is enough for you. My power is at its best in weakness” “ I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, ...For it is when I am weak that I am strong”
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus returned to his home town and taught the people in the synagogue and people were impressed. • Soon the mood changed. They knew him growing up and were not convinced that there was anything special about him . • Like the Israelites in the time of Ezekiel they were unwilling to accept the teaching that came from God. • Jesus was amazed at their lack of faith and his teaching bore little fruit there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mission of Ezekiel bears some parallels to the call of Moses. • For Moses it meant going to the obstinate Pharaoh. • For Ezekiel it is the Israelites themselves who obstinate like Pharaoh. • Through Ezekiel God invited the Israelites to turn back to him. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God allowed Paul to suffer so that he would maintain perspective and not take pride in his heavenly experiences. • Paul's petition for relief was denied, indicating that his suffering was serving a higher purpose • Grace was given him to endure these trials. • His experience shows us that God gives us what we need, and not always what we want.
Questions/ application to our lives	The people of Nazareth missed the experience of the power of Jesus because of their familiarity with him, expecting very little from him. Can over familiarity with Jesus cause us to be complacent in reading scripture or participating in the Eucharist? Do we have a real expectation of experiencing God's power?	Today's responsorial Psalm invites us to keep our eyes on the Lord and be thankful. Does this encourage you to place your trust in him, rather than your own expectations? What can we learn from Ezekiel about how to speak God's word to neighbours and friends?	Paul reveals why God sometimes allows bad things to happen in our lives. What does this teach you about learning to depend on him? Not all prayers are answered, not even those of great Saints. What does this teach you about the call to holiness? Is it a healthy reminder for you when we think our own prayer is unheard?
Further reading	<i>Catechism 500, 699, 2610</i>	<i>Catechism 162, 2581, 2584</i>	<i>Catechism 162, 868, 273, 1508</i>