

# The Living Word

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

28 January 2024

## First Reading Dt 18:15-20

*I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.*

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9**

**(R.) If today, you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his  
voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw  
my work.' (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Cor 7:32-35

*The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:16

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A people in darkness have seen a  
great light:**

**a radiant dawn shines on those lost in  
death.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mk 1:21-28

*This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.*

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus 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.



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The word 'diabolical' comes from a Greek word referring to something broken in two, shattered. Looking at persons and societies torn apart, it is obvious that the diabolical spirit is powerful. However, it harbours a fear that a more powerful Holy Spirit could reintegrate a personality, could make a community out of divided groups.

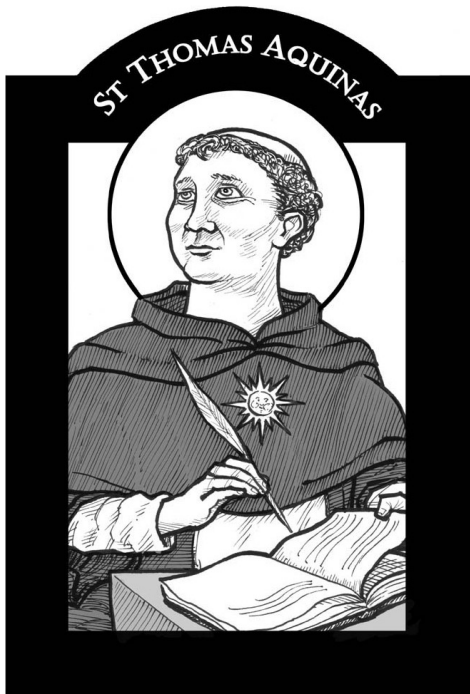
'Have you come to destroy us?' indicates that this fear was realised in the coming on to the scene of Jesus Christ. Jesus' answer was a resounding 'Yes', not in words but in action, healing a man torn apart by a diabolical spirit.

Jesus Christ invites and empowers us to join in his healing mission to overcome whatever it is which tears people apart, whether at the individual, community or global levels. We do so in the confidence of His Resurrection which overcame the diabolical tearing apart of His body and soul.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to joining Jesus' mission, so putting the fear of God into the devil!

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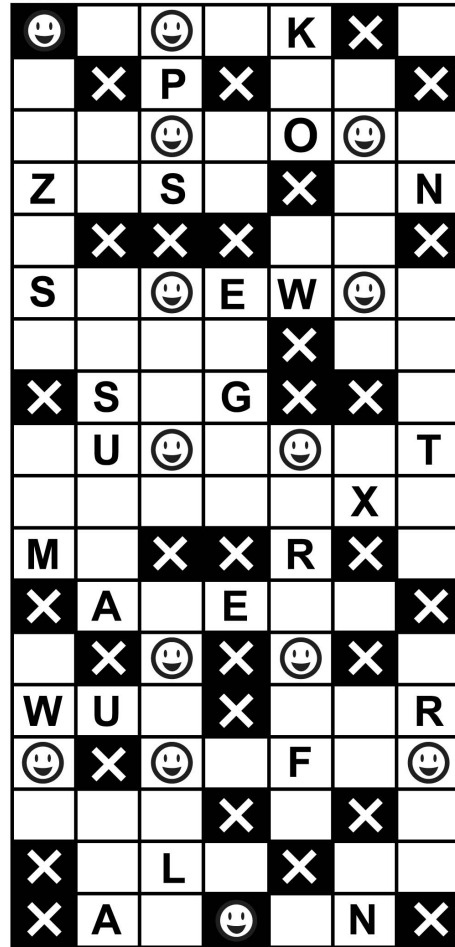


**S**t Thomas Aquinas was born in c.1225 and was one of the many children of the Count of Aquino. He was educated by Benedictine Monks, but eventually joined the mendicant Dominican friars in 1244, much to the shock and anger of his family. His brothers kidnapped and imprisoned Thomas in an attempt to change his mind, but after a year he was released. He went on to study under St Albert the Great and took a degree of master in theology. He devoted his life to teaching, preaching and especially writing; his philosophical and theological works have become integral to the thinking of the church. He experienced a divine revelation which lead him to abandon his writings, claiming that they were but straw in the wind when compared to the reality of the divine glory. He died four months later due to poor health. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1567.

Help spread the good news by connecting all the faces ☺. Only use straight lines - including diagonal lines - but do not pass through crossed boxes ☒.

Complete the sentence below by adding each letter that your line passes through.

START



FINISH

People were amazed at his  
\_\_\_\_\_ teaching.

U Q X H H P K M S V M B Z P J D W  
R X F T S A B Y J T V M P Q X O P  
B S U X D F Y H K O W U T E I U Q  
F C Q R P V J Q K M N A J G W U R  
E F Q C A K D F E O A N U N N M D  
N Y H Q G Y F J I S Z R N I G L Y  
W F R T R Q M E L E A E A H E C Z  
G T A K A A Y I S S R P P C Q I L  
W A G D M B V M J C E A V A P Z U  
C N V A J E B O V E T C T E P Y F  
A M Z H O L Y A Y D H M G T D X R  
G E E D V Y K S S D E S T R O Y E  
D K Z P F N A X H I L S V M B K W  
H C Y H W S F H P O C W I I M U O  
G E F H X O E N F W O X V J R B P  
H J S P A J N D R E O K E F B D S  
O K D G W B F D K R K S V V L N M

## Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

amazed  
Capernaum  
destroy  
evil  
Holy  
Moses  
Nazareth  
powerful  
quiet  
Sabbath  
shook  
teaching

