

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

BE STILL

Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord today.

THIS WEEK

- **11 June:** St Barnabas, *apostle* (Memorial)
- **13 June:** St Anthony of Padua, *priest, doctor* (Memorial)

Gathering Prayer

Loving God,
Draw near to us as we sit, think and reflect upon your word.
Open our hearts in order that we can hear your voice.
Amen.

Listen or Sing

Seek Ye First

AOV (1) 48; GA 456; CWB (11) 594

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu, Alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek, and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, Alleluia. *Text: based on Matt 6:33, 7:7*

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (3:20-35)

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, 'Beelzebul is in him' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either—it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.

'I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, 'An unclean spirit is in him.'

His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and

my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'

The gospel of the Lord.

Ponder

Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text, it is good to practice *Lectio Divina* – the reading of God's word in prayer asking that it 'enlighten and renew' us. The following questions may help with this:

- Lord, what does this text mean to me?
- What is it about my life that you want me to change by this text?
- What troubles me about this text?
- Why am I not interested in this?
- What do I find pleasant about this text?
- What is it about this word that moves me?
- What attracts me?
- Why does it attract me?

Reflect

Having just appointed the twelve apostles (Mk 3:13-19), Jesus returns home. And he is surrounded by people—those who seek him as a teacher and those who seek him in order to undermine and threaten him.

As a contemporary reader we may be curious about the response of Jesus' relatives. In the ancient world identifying someone as insane was a form of protection: from death for the relative concerned and from shame for the family members. In their own way they were, perhaps, aware of the danger faced by Jesus and were trying to look after him (and themselves). Jesus is adept at managing people's perceptions: Jesus' family is composed of those who follow him—those who understand that his source of authority is holy because it is of God.

Perhaps this week offers an opportunity to think about from where we take our authority—is it from a heart that discerns the will of God?

"We need a spirit of holiness capable of filling both our solitude and our service, our personal life and our evangelizing efforts, so that every moment can be an expression of self-sacrificing love in the Lord's eyes. In this way, every minute of our lives can be a step along the path to growth in holiness." (from "On the call to holiness" *Gaudete et Exsultate*, GE 31)

RESPOND

Pray

Loving God,
Encourage us in our efforts to live as a holy people.
May we keep the thought or you ever in our hearts as we journey through each day
Amen.