

THE LORD'S DAY

28th Sunday of Year C

The Watermead Apostolate offers this weekly page as a helpful guide and background to the readings used at the Catholic Mass for each Sunday of the Year. The reading guides were written by Fr John Daley (RIP) who served as a Catholic priest in various parishes around the UK and world for 53 years. Fr John co-founded Watermead in 1992 as a voice for people who wished to share understanding of living their faith through their God-given gifts and talents. 'The Lord's Day' incorporates some of those voices in this presentation and also through its many publications ~ books, resources, cards, music, etc. Further information on what we produce, our story and the mission of our Christian apostolate can be found by visiting www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk

First Reading

2 Kings 5: 14-17

We are in the middle of the 9th century (see chapter 4) and his fame has spread.

The Arameans (today's Syria) had invaded Northern Israel and taken captives. A slave girl serving Naaman's wife speaks of Elisha to her mistress and says that the for inspiration. prophet would cure Naaman's leprosy.

there will be a cure.

Naaman is angry at the prophet's simple simple ones? Naaman concurs.

Today's reading now begins. Naaman immerses himself in the Jordan seven times God has fulfilled the and is cured: prophet's word. Naaman is overwhelmed, believes in the Lord as God of all the earth, offers Elisha whatever gift he would choose and then asks a favour - to take away earth enough for an altar so that he might offer sacrifice to the God of Israel on holy land.

FAITH RULES

Faith asks for simplicity; Faith requires strength and courage; Faith mightn't include gratitude.

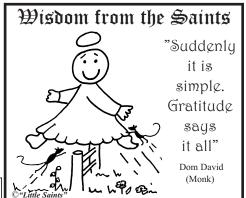
Second Reading

2 Timothy 2: 8-13

Paul has been encouraging Timothy to BC. Jehoram is king in Israel and Elisha is accept the burden of office with faith and way to Jerusalem, travelling along the the prophet. Elisha has worked miracles strength. Now, in chapter 2, Timothy is border between Galilee and Samaria. He is urged to wisely instruct and delegate so that going east instead of south! No, he is being the faith may be passed on. Paul points to careful. Jews avoided travelling through soldiers, athletes and farmers as examples of Samaria, so would cross the River Jordan in dedicated men whom Timothy can look to Galilee, go down the far side, and cross into

Α bishop, too, must focus Naaman is the army commander and the responsibilities. Paul offers himself as an think of "peace-lines" in today's world and Aramean king willingly gives him example of a believer willing to suffer for of indirect journeys such as Jesus takes in permission to go to Samaria to seek a cure. his faith in the resurrection of Christ. Paul today's Gospel. King Jehoram is disturbed at the request is being treated as a criminal, but God's which he considers impossible to fulfil, but news can never be imprisoned and will and title. Had they seen him on previous Elisha assures him that, with God's help, always be free! That freedom inspires Paul journeys, in happier times before being

bidding - to bathe seven times in the River Line by line there are neat balances of ideas, contact. Jordan, and refuses; but his servants remind each line complete in its two halves; but "Unclean" but they call "Mercy". him that he would have willingly accepted notice that 12b and 13a seem to disagree and difficult conditions - so why not accept raise the question: would Christ disown us? too easy. The Samaritan (how many of the



This week I shall . say "thank you" every day.

People of God

Tommy has been very ill for a little while now. He was always regular at mass, but not at Holy Communion. He felt unworthy to receive because he thought his faith was not good or strong enough. He admitted as much when the illness began. The priest called, was made welcome but there was no Holy Communion because Tommy explained how he had felt for many years. Father did not press it - this was God's time, not human time, and he knew that when the time was right Tommy would ask for Communion. The request for anointing came first, and then Father suggested Communion also. Tommy agreed, and the relationship with God was fully re-established. Twice a week, now, Tommy receives Holy Communion and with much gratitude. "These are the best moments of the week," he says. How he must understand the Samaritan leper's gratitude

Gospel Reading

Luke 17: 11-19

Only Luke tells this story. Jesus is on the Judea near Jericho. Tension was always on present between Jew and Samaritan. We

The lepers know him, call him by name to bear his sufferings for the sake of others. afflicted by leprosy? In asking for mercy Then comes part of a hymn (vv 11-13). they risk breaking the code of leprosy - no They should have called out

The cure is surprising and quick, almost ten were Samaritans?) returns to thank "Jesus, Master". Jesus expresses his disappointment: the foreigner recognises God's working through Jesus, the Jews do

Questions of Faith

The Biblical Sever Faith brings about the cures - "Your faith has cured you". All the lepers had faith, but

Elisha asks Naaman to bathe seven times in the Jordan. In the previous chapter he had brought a boy back to life - the boy sneezed seven times as a celebration that the breath of life was in his nostrils again (remember the story in "Genesis" of God's breathing the life into the body of clay). Creation took seven days, so did the Flood. The walls of Jericho fell after seven days. The Gospel miracle of the feeding plays on the number seven - five loaves and two fish, seven loaves. The Church chose seven deacons. Try to count the sevens in the Book of Revelation: churches, lamps, stars, trumpets, etc.