Ballineaspaig Parish Bulletin

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MASS TIMES

Sunday 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 Saturday Vigil 6.15pm **Weekdays**

9.30am

Eve of Holydays

7.30pm <u>Holydays</u>

9.00, 10.30 & 7.30pm

CONTACT DETAILS

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PARISH BULLETIN

The Parish Bulletin is available weekly on the Parish Website: _or can be e-mailed by forwarding your e-mail address to the Parish Office.



14th Sunday (B)

4th July, 2021

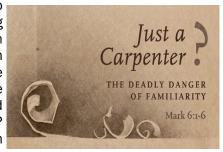
Mark 6: 1-6

Exploring the Familiar

Holidaying on the Wild Atlantic Way this week must have awakened in the lucky visitor a new appreciation of our beautiful coast and our rugged mountains. A small sheep farmer who has to eke out a living on these same mountains may not be as open to this gushing admiration of his locality. Indeed familiarity can often block our seeing the treasures in our midst or even, those within ourselves.

As we hear in Sunday's Gospel such familiarity blocked His peer Nazarenes from even glimpsing who Jesus might be. They thought they knew all about Mary and Joseph's boy. Some wagging tongues remembered the circumstances of His birth. Indeed,

Joseph was only a "blow in" from Bethlehem who came to get work in the new city that was being built down the road before setting up his own carpentry business locally. Working with Joseph was the only real job Jesus ever had before becoming a wandering preacher. How could he have anything worthwhile to say to us, not to mind being a messenger from God, a true prophet? However, He had worked miracles in Capernaum and they expected Him to work even more dramatic ones here in His home town.



Jesus' focus was elsewhere. He came to share with them the treasure of God's love, present in Himself and in each of His listeners and in turn in each of us.

Does familiarity block me from even glimpsing the wonder of creation that I am and that those around me really are?

Does familiarity block me from seeing Jesus in my every human interaction, friendship and love?

Does familiarity hinder me in developing the seeds of goodness and service that Jesus sows in my heart?

Are we so familiar with Mass that we do not expect the Word of God and the gift of the Eucharist to enthuse us each week to be apostles in our world?

Are we ready to mine in meditative prayer the gold in our hearts?

Christ be beside you and me.

Christ be within us and among us.

Blessed prospecting and exploring.



Fr. Tom Clancy.