

WHO IS JESUS HERE FOR?

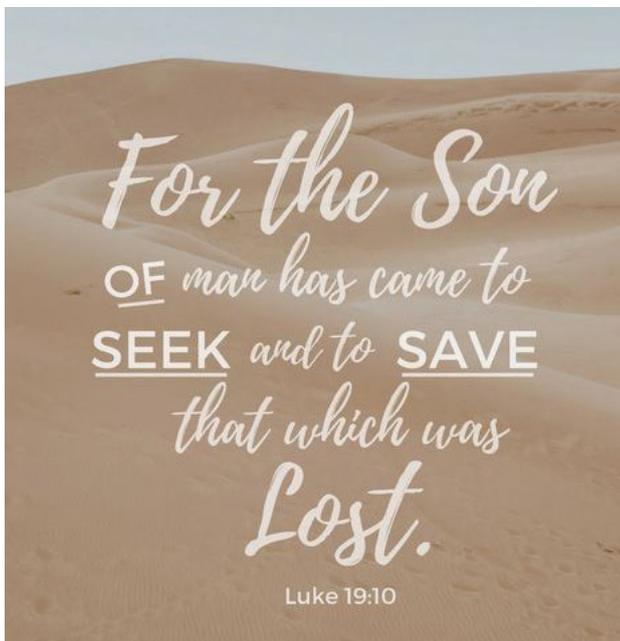
Why did Jesus come to Earth? To show us how to live? To teach us good values? Or with a mission? Jesus; a one man search and rescue team.

SUNDAY 3/11/19

1st Reading: Wisdom 11:22-12:2. **You are merciful to all, because you love all that exists**
Psalm 144. **I will bless your name forever, O God my King**

2nd Reading: 2 Thess 1:11-2:2. **The name of Christ will be glorified in you, and you in him**

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10. **Salvation comes to the house of Zacchaeus**



READ: This week's Gospel reading is one many will have heard already. Zacchaeus, a wealthy man who worked as a tax collector, undoubtedly cheating people along the way, was among the crowds who had formed to greet Jesus. Instead of staying among the crowd, he climbed up a sycamore tree and watched from a hidden point. He could see Jesus, just a man, no pomp and ceremony, nothing like he expected a so called King to be... and then Jesus begins to walk towards the tree Zacchaeus is hiding in. With all the eyes of the crowd on him, Jesus' eyes are fixed firmly on the now very nervous man perched in the tree. Jesus sees Zacchaeus and he knows his name, he knew exactly where he was hiding, he knows about all lies and deceit. But he sees past all this, all Zacchaeus' failures, and Jesus' heart moves with compassion for this lonely man. "Zacchaeus, hurry down, I am staying at your house today," Jesus tells him.

REFLECT: Zacchaeus thought he was the one looking for Jesus, when Jesus was in fact the one searching for him. Because Jesus is the one man search and rescue team. This account highlights Jesus' mission; to seek out the lost and save them. Zacchaeus' reaction is important too. He doesn't put it off, he doesn't say "oh but just let me clean up a bit first...", he immediately jumps down from the tree and welcomes him into his home, despite the protests from the crowds. Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus and called him by name. There was no need for anything else. He didn't need to clean his house, or clean up his act. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking Jesus is only there for people who are already perfect, or people who have already been baptised, or people who seem to understand what's happening during a Mass or a Church service. But Jesus is always trying to get your attention, wherever you are, wherever you're at, however many times you've set foot in a Church, however many times you've picked up a Bible. We aren't literally hiding away in trees like Zacchaeus, so Jesus won't literally be there to physically pull us down... but he was hiding from the truth that he is loved by God, and called to do and be something greater. A truth that so many of us are still hiding from today! Through this week's Gospel Jesus is trying to get us to realise he is calling each of our names. That we're the one he's on his search and rescue mission for.

**Friday Mass - 8.15am
Celebrated by Fr. Peter
Offered for the intentions of the
English Department**