

# Stu(space)

SERIES: POINTERS ON THE JOURNEY

Season colour: **GREEN**

In this series, **Gerard Moloney, C.Ss.R** reflects on the Gospel in the context of today.

They couldn't believe what they were witnessing. Here was the carpenter's son holding forth in the synagogue, preaching as if he were a rabbi, instructing as if he considered himself an expert. But they knew who he was. They knew his family. They knew his father's carpenter's shop. He was an ordinary Nazarene, one of their own. So where did he get all this wisdom? How could he talk with such authority? Who did he think he was, anyway, to come home, acting like some big shot?

So they wouldn't - couldn't - accept him. They saw him only as the boy next door. Filled with envy and incredulity, they refused to see who he really was.

His neighbours should have known that God was working through Jesus in a special way, that there was something unique and different about this extraordinary young man. But familiarity breeds contempt. They couldn't see past their expectations and prejudices. They were unable to see God's presence in the ordinary and the familiar. Jesus had no choice but to walk away.

## METOO MOVEMENT

One of the success stories of the 2010s was the taxi firm Uber. Founded in California in 2009, the ride-sharing start-up, with its user-friendly app and cheap fares, was a darling of the tech industry with a huge valuation on Wall Street.

In December 2016, a software engineer called Susan Fowler quit her job at Uber. Later, she wrote an explosive blog about her time with the firm. She described how she was harassed at Uber, starting with her first day on a new team. When she complained, her bosses ignored her or tried to intimidate her. Fowler's allegations exposed a widespread culture of harassment at Uber. Its chief executive was forced to resign, its value fell, and the broader tech industry had to confront its woeful history of discrimination against women and minorities.

Susan Fowler helped ignite the MeToo movement, which highlights sexual harassment of women in the workplace. The culture of abuse of power and white male supremacy is so pervasive that many people are unable or unwilling to see it. Last year, the head of the United Nations declared that gender inequality and discrimination against women is the "one overwhelming injustice across the globe - an abuse that is crying out for attention. Everywhere women are worse off than men, simply because they are women." A glaring injustice that many ignore or refuse to see.

At Uber, many people saw the way Susan Fowler was treated but they looked away. They didn't want to be involved. It can happen with us too. Even with perfectly good eyes, we can fail to see, or be oblivious to, so much of what is happening around us. We can be blind.

Blindness takes many forms. We can be so busy today that we simply don't have time to step back, look around, take note. Busyness prevents us from taking a closer look.

We can be so caught up in the regular routine of life, so stuck in our ways, that we fail to notice the signs of the times. Oblivious to the Holy Spirit at work in us and around us, we end up blinkered.

Or, like Jesus's townspeople, we can stubbornly refuse to see what is happening right in front of us, refuse to accept the evidence of our eyes. Such as the problem of homelessness, or the family member in distress. Or the judgemental way we look down on the newcomer, the foreigner, the refugee. We can refuse to acknowledge the challenges confronting our church.

Sometimes it's easier to be wilfully blind rather than face up to reality, to stay in the darkness rather than see with new eyes. But the Christian is called to see as Jesus sees and then always to respond, with courage, conviction and love. ■

EYES  
WIDE  
OPEN



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Today's readings

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Ezek 2:2-5  
2 Cor 12:7-10  
Mk 6:1-6

The Nazarenes' reaction to him highlights something important about Jesus: he was a real human person. He grew up in Nazareth, an insignificant little Galilean village. He became a carpenter. When he began his mission he did not present himself as some kind of super-hero. Yet, when he did work miracles, he asked for faith – and this was singularly lacking in Nazareth. The Nazarenes were so convinced of their fixed ideas that they could not recognize God's power in Jesus and he could not do a work of power among them.

# Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### Recently Deceased

Angela Furphy (nee Murphy), Lurgan,  
formerly Leitrim  
Tony Clarke, Bannostown Road

### Anniversary Masses

#### Dechomet

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> James O'Hare  
Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Bernard, Margaret and Patrick Doyle

#### Dromara

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Joe Gordon  
Margaret Marmion  
Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Maureen McGrillen (MM)  
Stephen O'Hare (Castlewellan Rd)  
Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Kevin Doyle  
Mickey McGrillen

#### Leitrim

Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Brendan Ward and Deceased  
Family Members

### Covid 19

The Vaccination Bus is coming to:

#### Castlewellan

- Community Centre Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul 11am-7pm

#### Newcastle

- Donard Car Park Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Jul 11am-7pm

No appointment necessary. The bus will return  
in 6 weeks for the second jab.

### The Prophets

There are often readings used at mass from the  
Prophets. A prophet was a person blessed with  
insight from God who spoke to the people.  
They were God's messengers on earth, often  
reluctant, but they spoke to the people, or often  
to the leaders of the people. There are many  
prophets referred to in the Old Testament, some  
are recorded in other books, and some have a  
book of their own words and life.  
Over the weeks I will attempt to give a brief  
sketch of their lives and message. The insight  
comes from a book, 'Let's Meet the Prophets',  
by Richard Atherton.

It is difficult to put this in context without some  
reference to history and give enough information  
to understand without too much to confuse.

Abraham	his call was around 1850 BC
Movement to Egypt by Jacob's sons	around 1700 BC
Exodus – lead by Moses	around 1250 BC
First Kings, Saul then David	1030-970 BC
Capture of Jerusalem by David	around 1000 BC
Building of the Temple	under Solomon around 966 BC
Kingdoms split – North and South	931 BC
Fall of Northern Kingdom (Samaria)	722 BC
Fall of Southern Kingdom (Judah)	587 BC
The Exile to Babylon	587 BC
Return to Jerusalem	538 BC
Second Temple begins	537 BC
Invasion by Alexander the Great	332 BC
(Hellenistic period begins)	
Roman Invasion of Palestine	63 BC

### Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet  
7:30pm Leitrim  
Sun 9:00am Gargory  
11:00am Dromara

### Weekday masses

Mon 9:00am Leitrim  
7:30pm Dechomet  
Tues 9:00am Dromara  
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim  
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

**Face coverings** are mandatory at all church  
gatherings, mass, baptisms, funerals and  
weddings. Please help to protect yourself and  
others by wearing one.

Collections (2 weeks)	Parish
Dromara	£424
Drumgooland	£907

**We welcome** into Drumgooland Parish  
Comlaedh McGrady

### Holiday

I will be away Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Jul after mass until  
Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Aug

### Drumgooland St Vincent de Paul

Are you experiencing difficulties and  
need a helping hand?

Contact us in confidence on 075 8644 7427