

EDUCATION SUNDAY

27TH JANUARY 2013

SERMON OR HOMILY NOTES

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Lectionary readings for Education Sunday: 27 January, 2013

Revised Common Lectionary

- Psalm 19
- Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10
- 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a
- Luke 4.14-21

Catholic Lectionary

- Psalm 19.8-10
- Nehemiah 8.2-4, 5-6, 8-10
- 1 Corinthians 12.12-30
- Luke 1.1-4, 4.14-20

Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10

- Ezra's 'congregation' comprised 'men and women and all who were capable of understanding what they heard' (v 2- 3)
- Who can judge who is capable to understand what other people hear?
- Some may only understand a little but even that can be life-changing.
- The Levites read clearly so that the people could hear clearly (v 8). They made its sense plain, not dumbing it down but making it accessible to all.
- They 'gave instruction', not just 'delivering the curriculum' but empowering learning.

1 Corinthians 12. 12-31a

- A body of people being like the parts of a human body was not Paul's original idea.
- Others had applied it to a city or a state; Paul applied it to the Church. It could also be applied to an educational establishment or group.
- Children and young people can be unkind to those who are different, who don't fit in. Part of education is learning how to appreciate the unique contribution of each one.
- Those who 'seem to be more frail than others are indispensable' (v 22) in class too!
- When a class or student body acts as a single body 'if one suffers, all suffer together; if one flourishes, all rejoice together' (v 26).
- It is everyone's responsibility to help others manage their weaknesses and develop their strengths.

Luke 4. 14-21

- Jesus was familiar with the Nazareth synagogue (v 16) not only as where he prayed on the Sabbath but where as a boy he had learned to read. There would have been men there who had been his classmates.
- People would have heard that Jesus had made a stir in Galilee after his baptism in the Jordan. Now they would hear their 'local lad' for themselves.
- Any adult male could be asked to read the lesson, choosing their own passage.
- When he began reading from Isaiah, some would have recognised that the passage included (61.2) 'a day of vengeance of our God', but Jesus stopped before he reached what they thought was the best bit!
- The kingdom of God which Jesus announced was not about wreaking vengeance on the Romans. His teaching aim, which not even his chosen disciples understood (Acts 1.6), was to stretch their minds and hearts to receive God's 'new thing' (Isaiah 43.19).