



Based on the gospel for 30 January, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 4:21-30

"... but Elijah was not sent to any of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town."

How quickly the villagers at Nazareth turn from amazement at Jesus' thought and speech to a violent resentment for the works that he has done elsewhere.

The jealousy of the villagers shows a sense of ingratitude. Instead of looking at the gifts that have been given to them, they focus on what others have received which they have not. It is likely that we have reacted this way sometimes, too.

When I tell people that I support CAFOD, it is not uncommon to be asked: "Why do you support people overseas when there are so many people suffering where you live?" Perhaps you have encountered this.

The Gospel of Luke is the Gospel which most portrays Jesus as a model for social justice. In this passage, Jesus speaks of times through history where God showed care outside of Israel, his 'chosen people'.

St Francis declares blessed all those who love their sister or brother "as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him" (*sic; in Fratelli Tutti, 1*). God's love is for all, and not limited by religious, ethnic, political, or national boundaries.

This week, let us strive to recognise Christ's presence both near and far.

God of infinite love,
All that is from you is pure gift.
Strengthen me so that I may give without counting the cost,
and have the humility to celebrate your works in others.
Grant that I may never turn away from you or my neighbour.
Amen.



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The power of contemplation

In this blog, Jenny, who works for CAFOD, reflects on what has sustained her hope during the last two years.

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This reflection and prayer were written by Sophia White who works in our Schools team.



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