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## From the Pastor's Desk..... 24 January 2016

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Today we return to the Gospel of Luke which dominates the cycle of readings for Year C. In today's gospel Jesus inaugurates his ministry through the symbolic enactment of reading and preaching in the synagogue of his hometown of Nazareth.

What is intriguing is the brevity of Jesus' sermon. After reading a passage from the prophet Isaiah he simply says, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." But what a punch is packed into that micro homily!

The Old Testament background is important here. The promise of God found in the Old Testament is now being fulfilled in Jesus. But how this salvation is being fulfilled is important. The passage that Jesus selects to read is a blueprint for a program of social justice and hospitality. 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'.

In announcing the Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis refers to this passage from Luke and goes on to comment: A "year of the Lord's favour" or "mercy": this is what the Lord proclaimed and this is what we wish to live now. This Holy Year will bring to the fore the richness of Jesus' mission echoed in the words of the prophet: to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed. (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 17)

**Peace and blessings,**

**Gerard**