

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 4th 2021
A Reflection by Fr Sylvester O’Flynn OFM Cap., Rochestown, Cork

Ordinary Little Nazareth

When Jesus returned to his hometown, Nazareth, his reception was disappointing to say the least (Mark 6:1-6). People heard about the extraordinary things he did in other towns. He was invited to speak in the local synagogue and initially most of the people were astonished when they hear him. But soon the negative people and cynics began to spread the seeds of doubt. They advised people to hold on a while before they made and commitment. “This is the carpenter and we know all his relations. A nice man, a decent carpenter, but he shouldn’t be getting notions above his station. People in other towns did not really know him so they fell for his notions.” Local begrudgery won the day. Jesus quoted an old saying that no prophet is accepted by his own people. The root of the problem was that in their eyes he was too ordinary.