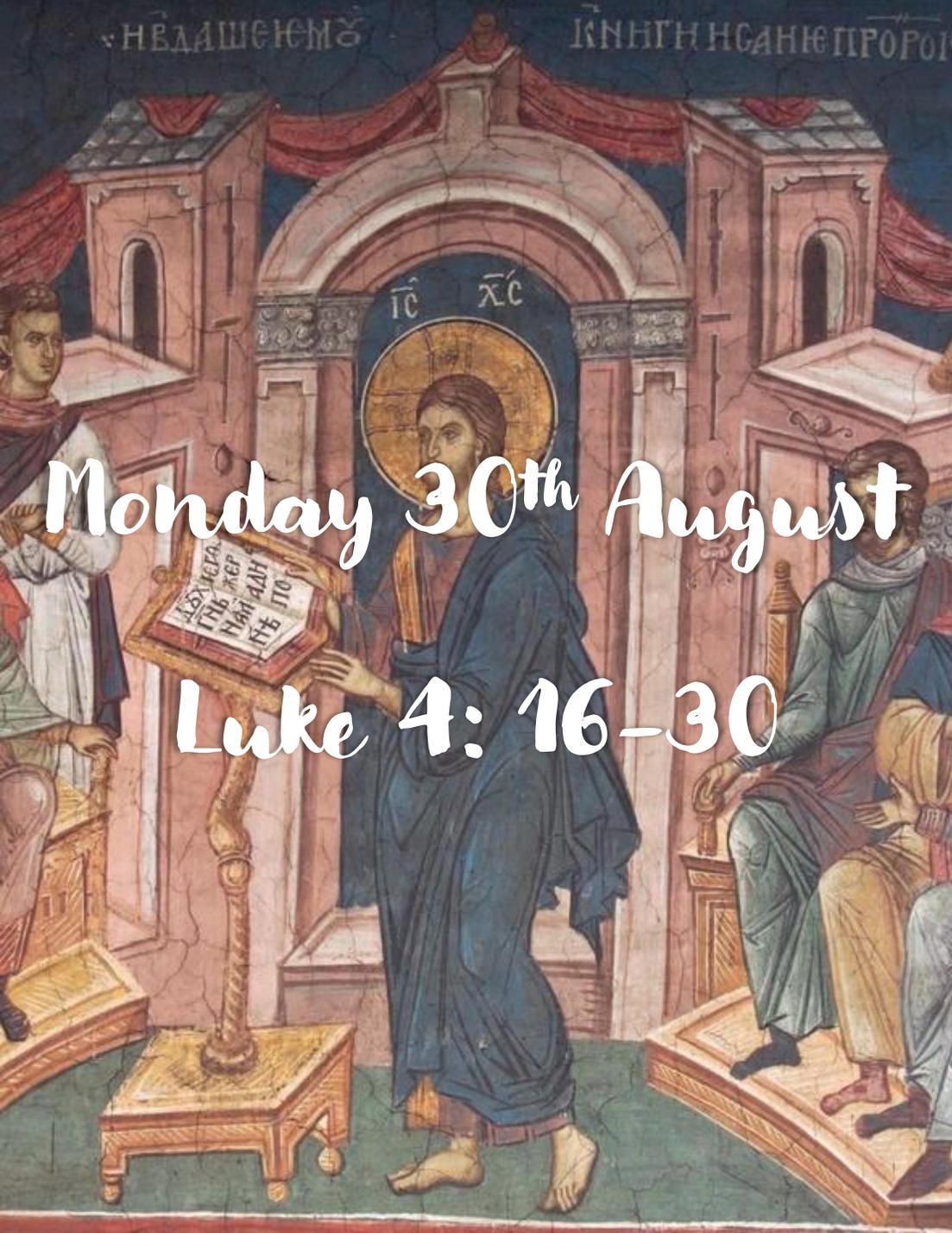




*Prayers for the Week Ahead*

WEEK BEGINNING 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST



Monday 30th August

Luke 4: 16-30

Today we start the continuous reading of the Gospel of Luke, with this solemn presentation by Jesus of himself and his mission. He makes a huge claim - he has been anointed by the Spirit. He is, in other words, the Messiah himself. His mission is directed above all to the poor and suffering and is all about setting people free from their shackles. The people of Nazareth were sure they knew Jesus so well as to refuse his message. They even tried to eliminate him.

*I too can run the risk of presuming I know Jesus and his message so well that I do not let him surprise me. Lord Jesus, make me poor in spirit so that I can hear your good news.*

*Amen.*



Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August

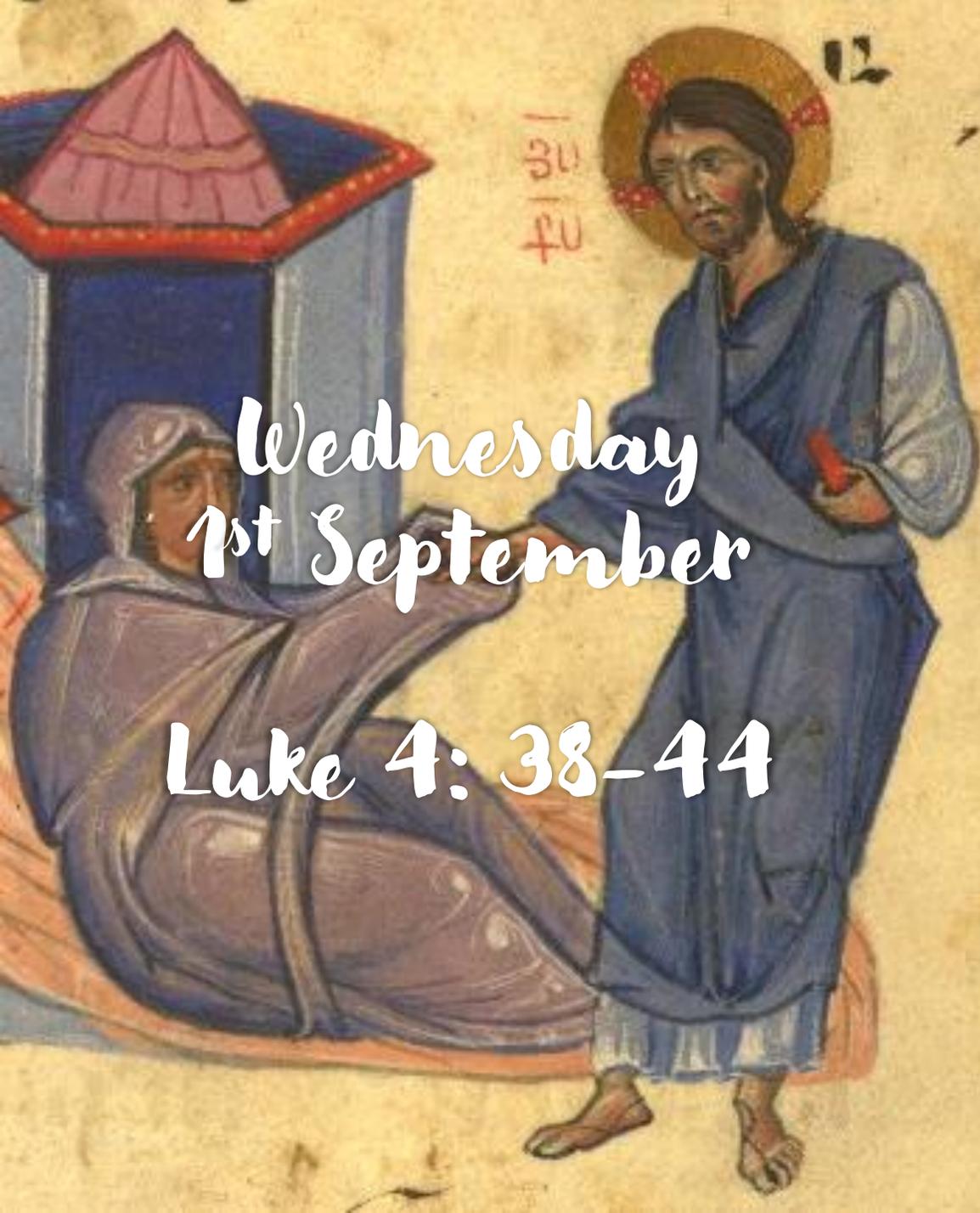
Luke 4: 31-37

The people of Capernaum were astounded at the authority of Jesus and his words. He was not saying things that were very different from what they normally heard, but he was speaking with great authority. He had a clear sense of who he was, his relationship with the Father was the bedrock of his life and message, and so he could speak with great authority. He had no other interest than that of proclaiming the truth and preaching the Kingdom.

It is very impressive that when expelling demons Jesus encountered resistance. He raised people from the dead and fed thousands with a few loaves and fishes without any effort, but he was challenged and resisted by the demons, even though he still had the last word.

*No wonder I am sometimes mystified by the power of evil around me. I ask Jesus to give me the same trust in his power that I see in the possessed man and the onlookers in the synagogue.*

*Amen.*



Wednesday  
1st September

Luke 4: 38-44

In today's Gospel we hear about 24 hours in the life of the Saviour of the World. His day begins alone in conversation with his heavenly Father. He then makes his way to join his brothers and sisters for worship in the local synagogue. Next comes a visit to the home of Peter whose mother-in-law is feeling feverish. After curing her, he is happy to remain on for the meal she prepares for himself and other guests.

People, hearing of his visit, are bringing their sick from the surrounding neighbourhood in the hope of a cure. All are delighted, only the demons are disappointed. His very presence is enough to silence them. Shortly he will leave to bring the good news to other places.

*Lord, you are as truly walking through my life now as you were on that day in Capernaum. May I always have the confidence to ask you for whatever I need.*

*Amen.*



Thursday  
2<sup>nd</sup> September

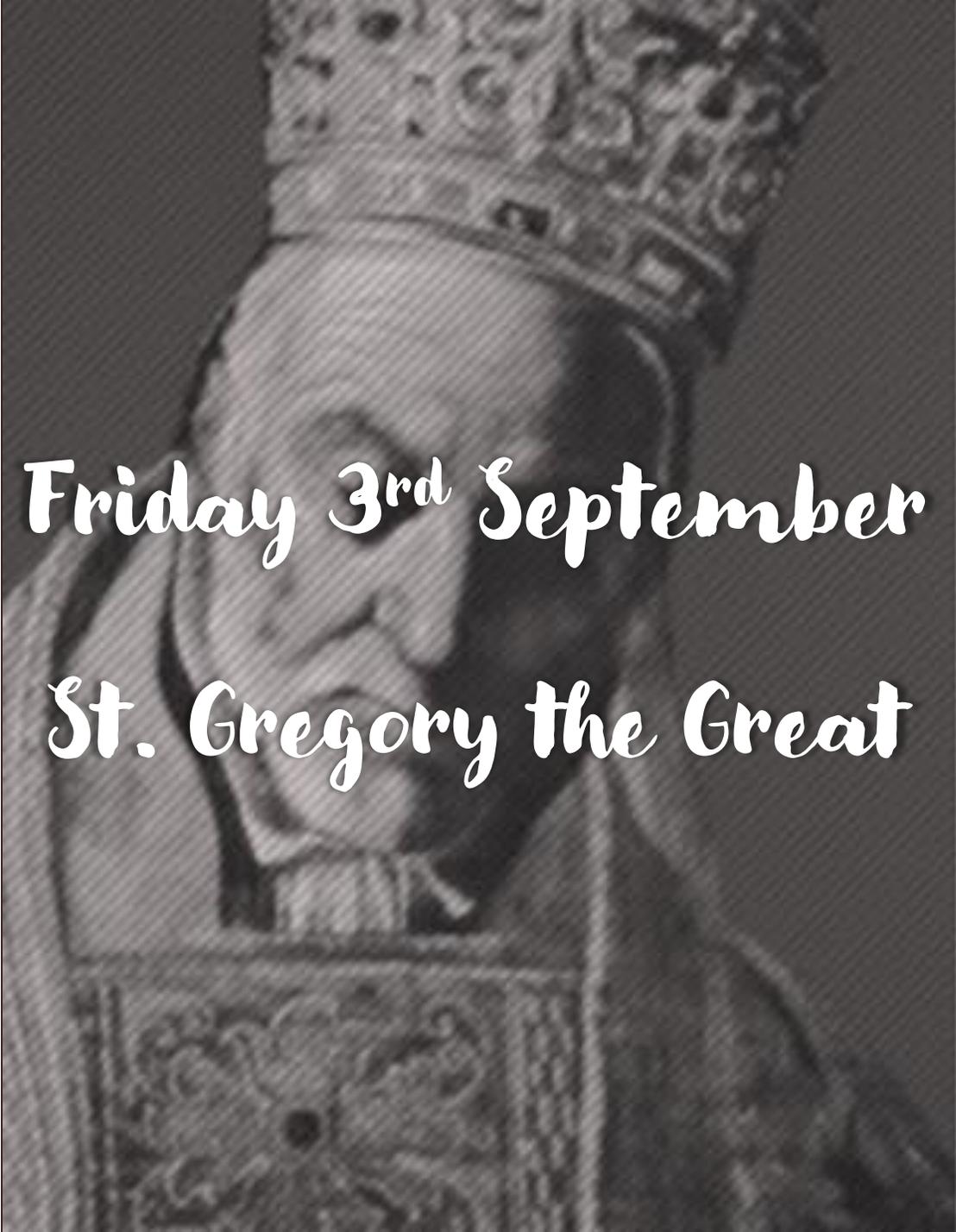
Luke 5: 1-11

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus preaching from a boat to the crowd on the shore. It's a very homely scene to picture Jesus sitting in the boat and talking to the people. They must have been very taken by his words and message and felt at ease listening to him.

The second half of today's Gospel, we hear how Jesus performed a miracle, so that the fishermen caught many fish. Luke tells us how Peter was overcome when seeing what Jesus had done and felt anything but at ease. Yet Jesus does not see the way Peter does and tells him be at ease with him and that he has a new mission for him, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."

*Lord, may I always be put at ease with you and listen to whatever you may have in store for me.*

*Amen.*



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

St. Gregory the Great

St. Gregory was born in Rome around 540. At the age of 39 he was appointed Chief Magistrate of Rome. He built six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in his own home in Rome. He became a priest at 35. He was unanimously elected Pope and is known above all for his contributions to the Liturgy of the Mass and Office. He is one of the four great Doctors of the Church and is considered to be the patron saint of teachers.

*Father, you guide your people with kindness and govern us with love. By the prayers of Saint Gregory give the spirit of wisdom to those you have called to lead your Church.*

*May the growth of your people in holiness be the eternal joy of your shepherds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*