

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) Sunday 17th January 2021

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

A: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: Today we begin our first portion of "Ordinary Time" which takes us up to Lent (starting on 17th February this year). In Ordinary Time we read through one Gospel week by week, this year Saint Mark – though because it is the shortest, we have a few "inserts" from Saint John, such as today. As we begin the year, our Gospel is about beginnings – how Jesus, after his Baptism and the temptation in the desert, began his ministry by calling his first disciples. We too are called to be disciples, so let us pray today that we may always listen out for the call of Jesus. We praise our God this Sunday, as we say:

Gloria

A: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading

John 1:35-42

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

If you read through today's Gospel again, you will notice that there is a lot of "staring and seeing" going on! John the Baptist "stares hard" at Jesus, and later Jesus does the same to Simon Peter. The somewhat diffident request of the disciples when Jesus sees them is met simply with the words "Come and see!" There is a gentle, almost enigmatic feeling

to this "calling" – it is very unthreatening, almost non-committal. In the modern Catholic programme for prospective converts (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA) the first "phase" is called the Period of Enquiry, or searching, or indeed "looking hard and seeing." It acknowledges that conversion or commitment is not something that always happens in a blinding flash, but is gradual and tentative. We must practise the same gentleness as we proclaim our faith to others – never badgering or insisting, but inviting. "Where do you go to church?" "Come and see!" "How do you pray?" "Come and see!" Perhaps today have a think about how we invite others to "Come and see" what our faith is all about. Have you ever invited someone to come to church with you, or pray with you – without being threatening or overpowering? Let us pray for the confidence to share our faith with patience and allow people to "look hard and see" what inspires us.

For our Younger Friends

1 Samuel 3:3-10,19

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord, where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

This is the first reading for Mass today, and we have printed it here because Samuel was very young when this happened – perhaps the same age as you! Have grown ups ever

said to you “Are you listening to me?” Sometimes we don’t really listen that well – perhaps we are distracted, and more interested in our phones or tablets or TVs! It’s a good job Samuel was listening carefully, so that he could grow up to be a great prophet! When you say your prayers, do you have a quiet time when you “just listen”? You won’t hear voices, like Samuel did, but something may come into your mind or heart that is a message from God, perhaps to help you cope with something, or find the right thing to do in some situation. Make sure you are someone, like Samuel, who can listen! And then say “Here I am!”

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to discuss what this Gospel passage means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

L: Jesus, the Lamb of God, is shown to us, so that we may listen to him. Let us pray for the Church and the world now, allowing Jesus to guide us in our prayers.

On this Peace Day, we pray for peace and justice in our world, beginning with our own decision, opinions and choices. Lord, in your mercy:

A: Hear our prayer.

As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins tomorrow, let us pray for all our Christian sisters and brothers, that we may listen to the call of Jesus to be one in his name. Lord, in your mercy:

A: Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for a sense of vocation in our Parish community, that all women and men will listen to the call of Jesus, and may respond generously. Lord, in your mercy:

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord’s Prayer

L: At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Before Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, through his Paschal Mystery, Jesus your Beloved Son accomplished the marvellous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light. To complete this mystery of salvation, at the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to

receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

A: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

L: I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God.

A: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

L: You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I.

A: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

L: In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart.

A: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

L: Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

A: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray. Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have spiritually nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!