

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

COLLECT

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, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 3:3-10.19

A reading from the first book of Samuel
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'. He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down'. Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He 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. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'. Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 39

**Response: Here I am Lord!
I come to do your will.**

1. 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. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. 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. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

SECOND READING 6:13-15.17-20

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.**

Alleluia.

GOSPEL 1:35-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION



What is baptism? Should the sacrament of baptism be celebrated in private? Why or why not? When and where is the most appropriate time and place for the celebration of baptism?

What is the role of the community in preparing for infant baptism? What role should the community assume after the baptism?

What is the role of the community in the preparation for adult baptism? How can the community best fulfil that role?

What is the role of the sponsors in preparing for baptism? What is the responsibility of a sponsor after baptism? How can you go about deciding who your child's baptismal sponsors will be? If you are being baptized as an adult, how can you decide who your sponsor would be?

What responsibility do parents have in the development of their child's faith life? What responsibility does the community have in nurturing the faith life of children or adults baptized into the community?

How do you carry out your baptismal promises as an adult?

GOSPEL ACTION

As soon as possible. Attend a baptism in your parish. Reflect on the promises made by the parents and sponsors. How does this affect you and your faith life? List all the ways your parish supports the newly baptized.

Readings – 3rd Sunday Year B

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5.10
Second Reading: 1Corin. 7:29-31
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Homily

17th January 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Dear friends, this week we have resumed Ordinary Time and the green vestments that we have not seen for a few weeks now have been worn again. However, it doesn't feel very ordinary or normal at the moment, what a strange time we are living through. There is hope as more and more people are being vaccinated which is a good thing, but the infection rate is still too high, people are contracting the virus and testing positive whilst our hospitals are creaking at the seams. There is still some way to go before the infection rate is brought under control and the pressure is eased upon the NHS and our hospitals; we all have a role to play to ensure this happens as quickly as possible by following what we are being asked to do at the moment.

I have been meeting regularly with other faith leaders and the public health authorities over these last months and the message that we have been asked to share this week is that we must continue to follow the rules, **hands-face-space**, and that households must continue not to mix together because this is the principal way that the virus spread so dramatically over these last few weeks. The other important thing that we have been asked to do is to encourage everybody to be vaccinated when they are given the opportunity because this is the way that we are going to beat the virus.

The scriptures this weekend have a very clear theme of call and invitation. In the First Reading we hear how Samuel is called three times but he fails to realise that it is the Lord who was calling him. It is only with the help of Eli, who eventually understood that it was the Lord calling the boy, that he responds and the fourth time that he is called Samuel replies, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' The response to the psalm is similar, we respond *Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.*

In the Gospel we hear how John identifies Jesus as '**the Lamb of God**' and how the two disciples with John, Andrew and we think John (the beloved disciple), follow Jesus and we have that wonderful encounter between the disciples and Jesus who invites them to '**Come and see**' where he lived and they stayed with him for the rest of the day. They spent time with Jesus and started to get to know him and from that moment their lives would be dramatically changed and would never be the same again. The next day Andrew introduces his brother Simon to Jesus and Simon is identified from this early moment in the Gospel of John as Cephas, the Rock on which the Church will be founded.

Homily

17th January 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

As we reflect on the call of Samuel and the first disciples, we too are called by the Lord at the beginning of this New Year and in this time of national lockdown. The Lord invites us to 'Come and see', he invites us into a deeper and even more personal relationship with him as we encounter him once again, wherever that may be, in Church or in our own homes it doesn't matter the important thing is that the Lord continues to call and we are invited to respond. Let our response be 'speak Lord, your servant is listening, here I am, I come to do your will.'

I know it is not easy for us at the moment as we are unable to spend time with family and friends with the lockdown but there is light at the end of the tunnel with the rollout of the vaccine. Let's put all our hope and trust in the Lord as we respond to his call and invitation once again this weekend, let's continue to pray for one another.

With love and prayers as always, take care and stay safe.
God bless you and your families, **Fr Phil x.**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

17th January 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

We entrust our needs and the needs of our world to God's tender mercy:

For Pope Francis, Bishop Mark and all Church leaders: may they inspire hope and peace during these days of anxiety and uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus and its effects on the global community.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are struggling and finding life difficult at this time of lockdown: may we support and help them through our love and friendship.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all essential workers particularly the doctors and nurses in our hospitals that are under such pressure: may they be granted the health and strength that they need as they continue to care for and support their sisters and brothers at this time. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, especially those suffering from the coronavirus; may they know the grace and healing of Jesus the Lord of love and life.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry and the poor in our world; may we be generous in sharing what we have with those who are less fortunate.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace in our world and an end to injustice, war and violence everywhere.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Fred McEaney, David Gorman, Stephen Roberts, Maureen Black, Brenda Williams** and all those who have died recently: **"Eternal rest grant unto them..."**

For those who mourn the loss of loved ones; may Christ's message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **"Hail Mary..."**

God our loving Father,
we ask you to hear the prayers that we offer
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

17th January 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this 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.