

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O Sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

**In his presence are majesty and
splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.**

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. 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 3:1-5.10

A reading from the prophet Jonah

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed'. And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 24

Response:

Lord, make me know your ways.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth,
and teach me:

for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of
old.

In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

3. The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING 7:29-31

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

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The kingdom of God is close at hand;
believe the Good news.**

Alleluia.

GOSPEL 1:14-20

*A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Mark*

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men'. And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and in sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation.

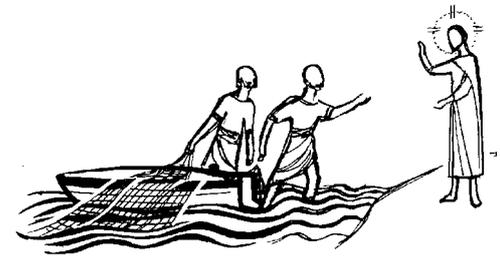
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Look towards the Lord with be
radiant; let your faces not be abashed.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring us to new life, we may always glory in your gift. Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

How were you called to follow Jesus? Were you asked to leave everything behind?

What does it mean to be a disciple? Does it always mean that you must lay down your daily life and turn your back on the world? Why or why not?

How does a faith community show acceptance to the call to discipleship?

What must disciples do in order to continue having the grace and courage to follow Jesus? How might Christians help one another be strong in following Jesus?

What are some of the basic ministries that a disciple can work in? What are some basic ministries that rise out of a faith community?

Does being a good Christian mean discipleship will be an easy task?

How can you learn to minister on an ecumenical basis? Is ecumenical Christian service a good way to share your basic faith with others?

GOSPEL ACTION

Find out about at least one other Christian denomination this week. What do they believe? How is their religion different for Catholicism? How is it the same?.

Readings – 4th Sunday Year B

First Reading: Deut 18:15-20

Second Reading: 1Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Homily

24th January 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Dear friends, what another eventful week it has been again. The vaccine continues to be rolled out and slowly but surely the infection rate is beginning to come down. However, we mustn't get complacent, the number of patients in our hospitals is still critical and each day we are seeing well over a thousand people dying of COVID-19 across the UK. It is vital that we continue to be vigilant and follow **Hands – Face – Space**.

We are in Sunday Cycle B when we read primarily, for most of this year, from the Gospel of Mark. Last weekend we heard, from John's Gospel, about the call of the first disciples; this weekend we have Mark's version of how Jesus calls the first disciples.

There are some significant differences between the two accounts; in last week's Gospel Andrew and his companion were initially followers of John the Baptist and it was John who pointed out Jesus to them and from that moment they followed Jesus and became his disciples.

In Mark's version this week, Jesus was walking along by the Sea of Galilee when he called the brothers Simon and Andrew. They abandon their nets and follow Jesus who then calls two more brothers James and John, sons of Zebedee, to follow him. Like Simon and Andrew, at once, they leave their nets and go with him.

On both occasions there is no hesitation, we are told that the brothers **at once** leave their nets and their boats and follow Jesus. There is an immediate response to the call to follow, there is complete dedication and all is abandoned in their pursuit of Jesus.

Mark tells us that these first disciples left everything they had in single-minded pursuit of Jesus; this is the ideal, I suppose.

It's interesting to note that the first disciples that Jesus called were fishermen, ordinary and everyday folk. They had no special qualifications or skills that we are aware of but they were obviously hardworking and Jesus could see the potential in them.

We are presented with the ideal, the perfect response to the call of discipleship. However, things aren't always perfect, we are human and we know that these disciples did not always live up to that ideal.

Homily

24th January 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Jesus began his public ministry by calling simple fishermen to be his most trusted co-workers. Although the twelve were not well educated or wise in the ways of the world, Jesus saw beyond their gruff simplicity to call them, because of what he could see, good honest ordinary folk filled with faith, sincerity and goodness.

As Mark's Gospel unfolds over the Sundays of this year, we will see how these first disciples will misunderstand Jesus (if not miss the point entirely), they will desert him and even deny and betray Him, but Jesus maintains his trust in them.

Simon and Andrew's abandoning of their nets and James and John's abandoning of their father in today's Gospel illustrates the total trust and commitment that Jesus wants from his disciples.

Most of us will not be called to leave everything in pursuit of Jesus like Simon and Andrew and James and John. We are called in different ways to follow Jesus and we are called to put our trust in the Lord. We are called to use our God given gifts and talents, the skills that we possess not in pursuit of self-interest but for the common good, the good of all.

As we reflect on the call of the first disciples, we think of our own call and how readily we respond to the Lord's invitation to follow Him.

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

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

24th January 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

We pray that we may always follow in the ways of Christ:

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 finding life difficult during 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 McEneaney, Christine McGowan, Christine Warriner, Brenda Williams, Mike Connor, Kev Bowe** 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

24th January 2021 – 3rd 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.