

17 JANUARY 2021

Sunday Message

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 2



Image in Grace Church, Chiang Mai, Thailand, of John the Baptist talking about Jesus

Today's Gospel reading (this week from the writing of the evangelist John) illustrates the fading of John the Baptist from the story. He had his own disciples, but when Jesus appears, he identifies Jesus to them as "the lamb of God", at which point two of his followers leave him and go to Jesus.

However, they appreciate Jesus simply as a rabbi ("teacher"). They ask where he lives, where his place of instruction is and spend the next few hours with him. One of these is identified as Andrew, who tells his brother Simon that "we have found the Messiah". On one level, this may be true, but in fact he is still speaking according to his own understanding of who the Messiah will be: it is also not quite true that he and his companion actually "found" Jesus – they were pointed in his direction by their previous master, John, and then were invited to spend time with Jesus. In the Fourth Gospel, it is usually Jesus who takes the initiative, and when Simon is presented to him, he tells Simon who he is and who he will be.

This episode shows the beginning of Jesus' forming a circle of disciples. He gives Simon his more familiar name of Cephas (Rock/Peter), which is associated in the Gospel tradition with his position as leader of the disciples: a change of name indicates a change of function or identity. To be a disciple is to answer Jesus' invitation to spend time with him and to learn from him. ■

REFLECT

The old Catechism defined faith as "a response to revelation". In the Bible, people do not find God: God always takes the initiative and communicates with human beings. In the Gospel, Jesus calls disciples and within the larger group he chooses an inner circle, as it were, of twelve apostles. Faith is essentially a positive response to the invitation of Jesus to each one of us. We can learn about the teachings, the dogmas of our faith, but this is not the same as believing.

From the titles the characters in John's Gospel story use for Jesus, we see at what level their appreciation of him really is. Sometimes we see it developing: sometimes a person can meet Jesus, even be healed by him, but not see him as anything more than a human being, albeit with extraordinary powers.

It is easy to identify ourselves or other people as Christian because we or they act in a certain way and hold certain values, but often these apply to anyone

SAY

Jesus, my Lord, my God, my All,
how can I love you as I ought?
(F.W. Faber)

LEARN

In the original Gospel text, the verb "to believe" can also be translated as "to trust".

In the Bible, a change of name signifies a change of function or responsibility.

Jesus as "the Lamb of God" is the one through whom human beings are now reconciled to God.



DO

Look at a picture of a person close to you. Think how your friendship and appreciation of that individual has developed over time: take that as the model for your relationship with Jesus.



who is trying to be a decent human being. There has to be more to it than that, and it is a lifetime's work. Just as we can keep discovering more about our spouse or friend, our understanding of who Jesus is and what he means to us must keep developing and deepening, or our relationship with him will wither and we will be left only with the outward practices. ■

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!

GLORIA

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.

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.
Amen.

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 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.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 39

Response:

Here I am Lord!
I come to do your will.

- 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.)
- 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.)
- 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.)
- Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

John 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.
Amen.

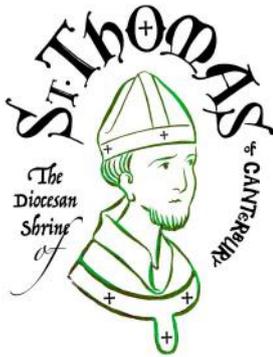
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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.
Amen.

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com> St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is Closed & Linda is working from home. Linda can access emails via the church email so please contact her this way initially.

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

2nd Collection: SVP

6.00pm (Vigil): Angela Tynan - RIP (E Corcoran)

Sunday 17th Jan: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jn 1: 35-42

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Anna Connolly - RIP (*Hugh Connolly*)

11.00am: John Aitken-Gray - RIP (*Myrna Gray*)

6.00 pm: Janet Sturge - RIP (*Brigid Rowe*)

OCTAVE OF CHURCH UNITY 18 - 25 JANUARY 2021

Monday 18th Jan: Feria

Mk 2: 18-22

7.30am: John Delaney - RIP

12 noon: for all Priests and Religious

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Tuesday 19th Jan St Wulstan, Bishop

Mk 2:23-28

12 noon: Welfare of Angela Nichols (*her friends*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Wednesday 20th Jan: St Sebastian, Martyr

Mk 3: 1-6

7.30am: Paulina Manfredini - RIP (*Daphne Miles*)

10.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Welfare of Pat Donav (*Pauline Ventress*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Thursday 21st Jan: St Agnes

Mk 3: 7 - 12

7.30am: Welfare of Baby Gabriel Ward

12 noon: Joseph Kunnasseril - RIP (*Jimmy Joseph*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Friday 22nd Jan: St Vincent, Martyr

Mk 3: 13-19

12 noon: Private Intentions (*JB*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: Angela Nichols - Welfare (*Tessa Metcalfe*)

Saturday 23rd Jan: Feria

Mk 3: 20-21

10.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: For Christian Unity

6.00pm (Vigil): Jill Robertson & all in Wakkerstroom - a speedy recovery (*Scott Family*)

Sunday 24th Jan: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mk 1: 14-20

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Felice Price-Wright - RIP (*Aubrey Reno*)

11.00am: John and Winifred Saunders (*Jo Wilkins*)

4.00 pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00 pm: John O'Sullivan - RIP (*Install Family*)

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Pat Gill, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Pippa Swan, Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols and Jean Boyce

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Maria Bryant, Pamela Dodds, Roberto de Paco, John Todd, Carol Mary Kidby, Anna Hesketh, Tom Hodges, Rebecca Judge, Gertraude Katherine Brock, Vera Fletcher, Maria Daniels, Maria Prado, Hannelore Hall, Bernie Fisher, Joseph McKee, Tony Kenny, Michael Jones, Douglas Ricketts, Maurice Crosland, Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald, Anna Koeller, Fr Michael Gwinnell, Ann Sexton, Paulina Manfredini, Fr Michael Boland and Fr George Webster

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

Anthony Weber and Tedina Linehan

CHURCH OPENING TIMES: We are adjusting our church opening times for **Private Prayer** as follows:

Monday to Saturday 10h30 to 12h30. Mass at 12 noon. Friday afternoon 12h30 - 15h00

MASS STIPENDS.

Please remember all stipends for Mass Intentions are paid directly to our Priests. For online or contactless options, please use the reference **MI DATE OF MASS** (e.g. MI 210127) so I can reconcile the amounts and ensure that our Priests receive stipends promptly and accurately. Thank you, Linda (Parish Admin)

MASS INTENTIONS 2021: There are many opportunities now open for you to have a Mass said for your intentions. Please email the Parish Office for a time and date. Donations can be made directly to the parish bank account or in cash to the Parish Office. Please Gift Aid. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION: Our retiring collection **this weekend, 16/17 January 2021** is for the **SVP**. Please give generously as usual.

Once again SVP has received calls from local people unable to afford food or heat their homes - and you very generously came to our aid. We have given practical help on 59 occasions during Nov/Dec; mostly to families previously unknown to us; including a grandmother, caring for her grandchildren, following the death of her daughter. Increasingly, we are a listening ear. Thank you all for your continued support and prayers.

From Fr Anthony ...

This coming Monday begins the annual Octave of prayer for Christian Unity, 18th January to 25th January. Because of this, I did my own examination of conscience. Saint Pope John II wrote in his encyclical *Ut unum sint*, “the quest for Christian unity is not a matter of choice or expediency, but a duty which springs from the very nature of the Christian community”. I had a look at the website of “Churches Together in Canterbury”. There are twenty Christian communities within Canterbury. Eight of these are Anglican or Church of England, There is the Salvation Army, then one United Reformed community, one Baptist Community, one Methodist Community, one French Protestant (Huguenot Community), one Quaker Community. There are three churches that identify themselves as evangelical, one nondenominational community and one a member of the Assemblies of God UK fellowship, and us, a Catholic community. I asked myself: “how committed am I to working with these communities and to what extent is Christian Unity a priority for us as a parish?” The Second Vatican Council stressed that division among Christian communities “openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature” (*Unitatis redintegratio* [UR] §1). I am not sure to what extent are we in Canterbury a visible sign of unity. Yes, we have a Churches Together website, and until lockdown, ministers were meeting once a month. We organise a Good Friday walk of witness and during the pandemic there has been much cooperation among the churches in supporting the work of the Salvation Army. In the past there has been a service together during this Octave of prayer. What is noticeable is that this year there seems to be nothing planned by the Churches together in Canterbury (CTC). At least there is nothing on any of our individual websites.

In the revised Document from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity entitled; *The Bishop and Christian Unity* we read: “The real, though incomplete, communion that already exists between Catholics and other baptised Christians can and must be deepened at a number of levels simultaneously. Pope Francis has captured this in the phrase, “walking together, praying together and working together”. By sharing our Christian lives with other Christians, by praying with and for them, and by giving common witness to our Christian faith through action, we grow into the unity which is the Lord’s desire for his Church. The theme chosen for the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity this year “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, is based on John 15:1-17. I suggest that at St Thomas we will celebrate a Votive Mass for Christian Unity during this week and each day we pray for a different Christian Community and their leaders.

Loving Lord look kindly on the Christian communities in Canterbury that we whom one baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and unity in the bond of charity.

This Sunday is Peace Sunday - In the coming year the theme of Pope Francis' message will be A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace. Referring to the pandemic that marked humanity's path this past year Pope Francis says this has taught us how important it is to care for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society. That is why he has chosen as the title of this year's Message, *A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace*. A culture of care as a way to combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time.

You can read it online

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html

POLISH COMMUNITY MASSES 2021:

The Polish Community Masses for 2021 take place in St Thomas' Church at **4.00 pm** on the following Sundays:

24 January	28 February	28 March
25 April	23 May	27 June
25 July	22 August	26 September
24 October	28 November	19 December

ONLINE 'Building a Better Marriage'

Dear husband and wife!

During the restrictions due to the Covid pandemic, an online 'Building a Better Marriage' opportunity is being held from 10am -1pm on Saturday March 13th 2021.

This means that you can attend the course from your own living room and **there is no group sharing!**

For further information contact: Carole -

Tel: 07983524727 - email: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk