

17 JANUARY 2021

# Sunday Message

2<sup>ND</sup> 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?

(P.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.

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** 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.

**Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon**  
**1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL**

We are a *LiveSimply* parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375  
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375  
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday  
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*We live stream all services*

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230  
Visits at JR Hospital: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732  
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office  
Parish Website: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)  
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:**

Please note that during this pandemic period, and until further notice, the Parish Office opening hours will be from **Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. Outside of these times, Fr Jamie will respond to urgent phone messages as soon as he can.

**PRIVATE PRAYER**

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- ✠ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- ✠ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm**

**MASS BOOKINGS:**

**On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January you can book for Masses from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January.**

**PLEASE** remember to give as many dates and times when you could attend – otherwise you may be disappointed. Also be clear on the number of people you are booking for and let us know if you would like to attend more than one Mass during the week.

**HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS**

**No Internet Access?**

Phone **07395 946827** EACH MONDAY between 10am and 11am ONLY to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

**Have Internet Access?**

**DON'T** phone. Instead, email: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk) EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

**NEWSLETTERS**

Please remember that we are currently still not able to offer newsletters or any other printed material in church. Please bring your own with you if you would like to (you can download it from our website).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Ordinary Time (Year B)**

**Attendance through booking system only, but also available on our live stream**

**Sunday 17 January**

10.15am Mass  
6.30pm Mass  
2.00pm Polish Mass

**Day of Prayer for Peace**

(John Morris, RIP)  
(James Molloy, RIP)

**Monday 18 January**

9am Mass (Philip E. Dunn, RIP-anniversary)

**Tuesday 19 January**

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other masses

**Wednesday 20 January**

7pm Mass (Willie Connor, RIP)

**Thursday 21 January**

9.30am Mass (Patricia Connor, intentions)

**Friday 22 January**

7pm Mass (Kristina Rapier, intentions)

**Saturday 23 January**

12pm Mass (Private intention)



**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## SURVEY OF PEOPLE & PARISHIONERS

The Diocese want to understand better what you the people and parishioners of our Diocese think **and** what you consider is important as we journey **in** faith together. The online questionnaire will run over Christmas and into the New Year and a link is available on the News page of our website. A paper version is also available for those unable to access the digital version: leave a message with name and address for Chris Smith the Diocesan Director of Communications on 02394 216496.



## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This begins on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January and this year it has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. You can access resources for this week here: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

## FORMATION FOR READERS

The *Formation for Mission* team, led by Sr Hyacinthe, will continue offering readers' workshops in 2021, Year of the Word in Portsmouth Diocese. The 2021 workshops will take place **in February (6th and 13th)** and **in April (17th and 24th)**. Participants need to have attended both workshop 1 and workshop 2, and completed a reading practice to receive a Diocesan *Recognitio*. Sign up for the workshops using this link (also available on the News page of our parish website): <https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers>

## CONTINUING TO PRAY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Bishop Philip reminds us that it is important to continue to pray for everyone affected by the pandemic and redouble our prayers at this time for the government, for our political leaders and for all who have responsibility in leading us through this coronavirus crisis.

*Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. 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. Amen.*

## SECOND COLLECTION

**Next weekend** we take the annual second collection in support of your Cathedral in Portsmouth. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family.

Due to the lockdown and restrictions being imposed on many people travelling, a 'Give as you Live' page has also been created to enable you to donate online at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/cathedral-annual-appeal>

Understandably, we all are aware that these are difficult times for us all, but please give generously to support your cathedral, gift aiding your donation wherever possible.



## PEACE SUNDAY

This is celebrated this Sunday at the request of the Bishops of England and Wales. The key quotes from Pope Francis' Message for World Peace Day are on the parish website and there is a link to the full text in the current Diocesan e-Newsletter and also on the website of Pax Christi [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk). There is a Donate button on the front page of the Pax Christi website. If you use this Donate button, you may wish to add the word 'Abingdon'. Our parishioners have always responded very generously on previous Peace Sundays in support of Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace and it is hoped that, despite the current restrictions this year, the generosity will be no less.



## HELP A CHILD LEARN AT HOME

Do you have an old tablet lying around you no longer use? Could you donate it to help a local child access home learning?

*TrinityLearning* can collect devices from you and arrange to have them wiped and reset before passing them on to a school in the Abingdon area (although we recommend you delete all personal details and files if you can). They just ask that all devices are in working order and have their charging plugs and leads. They cannot return devices, so please only donate devices you no longer need or use. By donating a device you could enable a local child or family to access home learning and help to reduce the pressure on schools. If you would like to know more, or have a device you would like to donate, please contact Nicola at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com).