

PARISH OF ST GEORGE

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

21 JANUARY 2024

Readings: Gospel Mark 1:14-20

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus came to Galilee and began preaching, challenging people to **“repent and believe in the Gospel.”**



Just as John did, Jesus also called for repentance, meaning a change in one's mind or in the direction of one's life and setting new priorities. Repentance also means hating sin itself, not just being sorry for the consequences of one's sins. Believing in the Gospel demands from the hearers a resolution to take Jesus' words seriously, to translate them into action, and to put trust in Jesus' authority.

Again by describing the call of Jesus' first disciples, Andrew, Peter, James, and John, today's Gospel also emphasizes how we are to respond to God's call with total commitment.

Life messages:

1) We need to appreciate our call to become Christ's disciples: Every one of us is called by God, both individually, and collectively as a parish community, to continue Jesus' mission of preaching the Good News of God's Kingdom and healing the sick.

2) We are called individually to a way of life or vocation: – a religious commitment (priest, deacon, missionary, religious Sister or Brother, marriage partner, or single person), plus a particular occupation rising from our talents (medicine, law, teaching, healing, writing, art, music, building and carpentry, homemaking, child-rearing ...). Our own unique vocation should enable us to become what God wants us to be. As St. Francis Sales puts it, we are expected to bloom where we are planted.

3) Our call, of course, begins with our Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation. It is strengthened through the years with the Eucharist and Reconciliation, healed and consoled by Anointing and, for those so called, made manifest in the sacraments of Matrimony or Holy Orders. The amazing truth is that God is relentless in calling us back to Himself even when we stray away from Him.

4) Let us be thankful to God for His Divine grace of calling us to be members of the true Church. Let us remember that it is our vocation in life as Christians to transmit Christ's Light through our lives, radiating Jesus' unconditional love, mercy, forgiveness, and humble service to all in our society.

The Month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

Prayer to the Holy Name of Jesus

O my Jesus, you are the Saviour who has given your blood and your life for me, I pray Thee to write your adorable name on my poor heart; so that having it always imprinted in my heart by love, I may also have it ever on my lips, by invoking it in all my necessities. Amen

ANIMA CHRISTI:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
 Body of Christ, save me.
 Blood of Christ, embolden me.
 Water from the side of Christ, Wash me.
 Passion of Christ, Strengthen me.
 O Good Jesus, hear me.
 Within your wounds hide me.

Permit me not to be separated from you.
 From the wicked foe, defend me.
 At the hour of my death, call me and bid me come to you.
 That with your saints I may praise you
 For ever and ever.
 Amen



MASS TIMES FOR THIS COMING WEEK

Saturday 20 January St Fabian, pope and martyr St Sebastian, martyr <i>Let your face shine, O Lord, that we may be saved.</i>	6:30pm	Ancari Family
Sunday 21 January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday of the Word of God <i>Lord, make me know your ways.</i>	9:30am 11:00am	Mary Joseph Parishioners
Monday 22 January St Vincent, deacon and martyr <i>If a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand.</i>	No Mass	-----
Tuesday 23 January St John the Almsgiver, bishop <i>Anyone who does the will of God.....is my brother and sister.</i>	No Mass	-----
Wednesday 24 January St Frances de Sales, bishop and doctor <i>Jesus said 'Listen anyone who has ears to hear'.</i>	No Mass	-----
Thursday 25 January Conversion of St Paul, Apostle <i>Go out to the whole world; Proclaim the Good News.</i>	No Mass	-----
Friday 26 January St Timothy and St Titus bishops <i>Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.</i>	No Mass	-----
Saturday 27 January St Angela Merici, Virgin <i>A pure heart create for me, O God.</i>	6:30pm	Souls in Purgatory
Sunday 28 January FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.</i>	9:30am 11:00am	Sophie Greig

Readers: 21 January 2024

Sat 6:30	Sun 9:30	Sun 11:00
Hazel Spencer	Richard Shrimplin	Helena Bellis

Announcements

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

As part of this special week of prayer, Whitchurch Churches Together are holding a short service at St George's on Tuesday 23rd January at 7pm. Everyone is most welcome to join worshippers from all our churches that evening. Anyone who would be willing to take a small part by reading during the service should contact Eileen Livesey or Helen Clarke.

Whitchurch Foodbank

The managers and trustees would like to thank all those who made contributions at Christmas. Thanks to your generosity the Foodbank was able to provide all its clients with a bag of Christmas items in December and 71 local families received special food parcels to support them in providing Christmas dinner. Many people also continue to provide support financially and the kindness shown by you towards those in crisis is really appreciated.

Mass Offerings for 15th January -
 £343.65
 Standing Orders -
 £118.25

*Confession is before or after Mass or at any convenient time you want.
 Arrange with the Parish Priest.*