



ONE MISSION, TWO PARISHES

Saint Timothy's & Saint Luke the Evangelist
Catholic Parishes, Forest Hill & Blackburn South

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 21 JANUARY 2024

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

REACH OUT IN LOVE AND MERCY: MARK 6: 32 - 34



Readings this week: Jonah 3:1 – 5, 10; Ps 24; 1 Cor 7:29 -31; Mk 1:14 - 20.

Gospel Reflection ~ Greg Sunter

This week's Gospel shows us clearly that those Jesus chose to follow him closely were the most ordinary of people. Anyone today wanting to enter into some sort of public life would gather around them a team of advisers, an image stylist, a public relations expert, a market analyst and probably a guard or two. Who did Jesus choose to be 'entourage'? A few fishermen, some friends of friends and even a tax collector – one the most despised occupations of his time. The very ordinariness of these disciples was a deliberate action on the part of Jesus. It was a clear statement that his message was not for the learned scholars and interpreters of the Torah but rather for the everyday person.

Throughout the gospels we see that the vast majority of encounters and interactions that Jesus has are with common, everyday people. When he encounters the officials of the Jewish faith – the scribes and Pharisees – it is inevitably in a conflict situation. Those to whom he directs his ministry are the common people – those who have felt the brunt of Roman oppression and the strict interpretation of Jewish Law. The gospel passage also gives us an insight into what a charismatic figure Jesus must have been. Fishing was a good solid livelihood. Fish was a staple in the diet of Galileans and so supplying that staple would have provided a regular income. But on encountering this man Jesus, the fishermen abandon their nets and begin to follow him. They must have immediately seen something in him that impressed them. It seems hard to believe that physically tough men such as fishermen would have been easily impressed – much like today. So the impact that Jesus made on these men must have been quite special to make them walk away from everything that they knew.

Scriptural Context – The Gospel in a hurry. One of the features of this week's gospel is the immediate response that Jesus inspires from the fishermen as they give up all that they previously knew to follow him. We will see throughout this year of readings that this is characteristic of the Gospel of Mark. This gospel is sometimes referred to as the gospel in a hurry as the writer uses a lot of language that implies haste – 'straight away'; 'immediately'; 'that day'; 'at once'. Such language is used to describe the movement of Jesus around Galilee but it is also used to describe the powerful reactions people have to him.

Have you thought? Year B: Although the new liturgical year began with Advent, this week's reading is the first time that we enter into the cycle of the gospel for this liturgical year, the Gospel of Mark. The Church calendar works on a cycle of three years: Year A; Year B; and Year C. Each of the three synoptic gospels is associated with one of the years: Matthew in Year A; Mark in Year B; and Luke in Year C. Throughout this liturgical cycle we will move through the Gospel of Mark from beginning to end – usually in the part of the liturgical calendar known as Ordinary Time.

Living the Gospel – The Good News is here. This week's gospel marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel of Mark. The gospel writer has Jesus clearly announcing his message in plain, simple language: 'The kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' That message is as true for us today as it was when those words were first spoken. The kingdom is still close at hand if we would only recognise it in our midst rather than pinning our hopes on some future reward. The call to repent and believe the Good News is as relevant for us as it was for the first believers.

REACH OUT IN ...

Whitehorse Deanery
Eastern Region
Archdiocese of Melbourne

Rev Father Gerard

Parish Priest

Sonya O'Farrell

Part-time Parish Secretary

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10.00am – 2.00pm

SUNDAY MASS

ST: & SL: Saturday Vigil @ 6.00pm

Sunday ST: @ 10.30am Australian

5.00pm – Vietnamese

& SL: @ 8.30am

WEEKDAY MASS & SL: ROSARY

ST: Weds. & Thurs. @ 9.15am

Fri. @ 10.00am

1st Wednesday of the month

@ 10.00am Mass of Anointing.

SL: Tues. @ 5.00pm

Wed., Thurs. & Fri. @ 9.30am

Sat. @ 9.00am

RECONCILIATION

SL: Saturday 9.30am – 10.00am &

5.30pm – 5.50pm

SL: EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed
for Adoration Wednesday

Start: 7.00pm | End: 8.00pm

MACS Catholic Primary School

21 Stevens Road, Vermont, 3133 Vic

Tel: (03) 9878 4188

Ms. Anne Maree Jones Principal

Email: principal@sttims.catholic.edu.au

Website: <https://sttims.catholic.edu.au/>

MACS Catholic Primary School

46 Orchard Grove,

Blackburn South Vic 3130

Tel: (03) 9877 4023

Mrs. Clare Ryan: Principal

Email: principal@slblackburnstn.catholic.edu.au

Website: slblackburnstn.catholic.edu.au

Prayer to Saint Timothy

O God, who adorned Saint Timothy
with apostolic virtues, grant,
through his intercession that, living
justly and devoutly in this present
age, we may merit to reach our
heavenly homeland. 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.

Patron Saint of stomach and intestinal
disorders.

Prayer to Saint Luke the Evangelist

O St. Luke, you were chosen to reveal
in preaching and writing God's love
for the poor. Moved by the heavenly
Spirit of Love, you detailed the life of
Jesus, showing His divinity and His
genuine compassion for all human
beings. Help those who already glory
in God's name to persevere in one
heart and one mind and inspire all
people that they may hear the Good
News of Salvation. Amen

Patron Saint of artists, physicians,
surgeons, students and butchers.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this weekend all who are sick, especially
Kit Bing Fan, Tony Keaney, Kathryn Holmes, Therese O'Donoghue,
Stewart Davis, Jerry Donoghue, Margaret Hayes and all those Parishioners
unable to be among us this weekend. For all who have died recently,
especially Trevor Stowe, Mrs. Wong & Laurie Morgan, for the casualties of war
in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza and for those whose anniversaries occur about this
time especially John Blanchfield, Terry Drew, Peter Burns, Teresa Vu Thi Tot,
Vin McCarthy, Thomas McLoney, Paul Gordon, Eugenio Mariniello,
Dot McLeish, John Foard, Judy Pitcher, Margaret Valladares, Yin-Foong Kong,
Pam Lissenden, John Chiarilli and Eileen Hilliard. May they rest in peace.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: **Ordinary time ~ Monday:** St Vincent,
deacon, martyr; **Wednesday:** St Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor; **Thursday:**
The Conversion of St Paul, apostle; **Friday:** Australia Day; **Saturday:** St Angela
Merici, virgin or Sts Timothy and Titus or Saturday Mass of the Virgin Mary.
Masses this weekend: Preface II of the Sundays in Ordinary Time, Eucharistic
Prayer III; Eucharistic Acc. No. III.

SL LITURGICAL ROSTERS FOR FEB - JUNE: Signup clipboards are
available this weekend in the Church foyers at the 6.00pm, 8.30am and
10.30am Sunday Masses and for the next two weekends. Any new volunteers
from either **SL** or **ST** are also invited to record your contact details and
preferences of time and ministry(s) please.

**THIS WEEKEND WE CELEBRATE THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME:** "Today we reflect on the first and most important responsibility of
discipleship, namely, evangelisation, the goal of which is the proclamation of
the reign of God. God seems to choose the most unlikely people to preach to
others. It does not matter who *brings* the good news, but who *receives* it. Jonah
the prophet was sent to outsiders, even enemies. The disciples were fishermen
who spoke to the people of their own country. God's salvation is intended for
all, and it seems to make little difference who brings this good news. Today's
readings call for repentance. The grace of God requires a new way of living, a
life of faith and commitment. The gospel invites us into the age of fulfilment, a
salvific reign of truth, compassion and kindness. It is a way of life that leads to
justice. There is an urgency in these readings. This world in its present form is
passing away, and God's call demands a total response. Like the disciples, we
must leave the familiarity of our former ways and follow the call that we have
heard in the depths of our hearts. We are called first to enter the reign of God
and then to spread it. As ambassadors of God, we bring the good news of
salvation wherever we are and in whatever we do. Called by God, we now
begin to live in a totally different way, guided by the values of the reign of God
rather than those of the world that is passing away." © Dianne Bergant CSA

AUSTRALIA DAY THIS WEEK: **The Story of Australia ~** the story of an
extraordinary nation. The Story begins 60,000 years ago. New chapters are
written every day. On Australia Day, we reflect on our history, its highs and its
lows. We respect the stories of others. And we celebrate our nation, its
achievements and most of all, its people. [We're all part of the story.](#)

CITY OF WHITEHORSE Australia Day Concert: For more information about
the Australia Day Concert, please visit the [Creative Whitehorse website.](#)

A VOCATION VIEW: Just as the first apostles were called by the Lord to
become fishers of men, during this week we remember that our role is to
become better followers of Christ, attracting other to him too. (Mk 1:17)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
Mark 1:17. Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the
here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready"
or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means
that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God
has a much better plan in store for each of us. (**ST:** Weekly First Collection
Presbytery Envelopes: \$262; Thanksgiving Stewardship Envelopes this week: \$310;
Vietnamese Donation: \$245.50; **SL:** Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes:
\$308; Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$269).

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS who have
walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge
the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the
ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

WEEKEND PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

SATURDAY	6:00 PM SL	Edna Lee
	6:00 PM ST	Volunteer
SUNDAY	8:30 AM SL	Melina Barcellona
	10:30 AM ST	Volunteer
	5.00PM ST	Hoang Doan & Tuyet Nguyen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY	6:00 PM SL	Volunteer
	6:00 PM ST	Volunteer
SUNDAY	8:30 AM SL	Kana Chelliah
	10:30 AM ST	Volunteer
	5.00PM ST	Hung Dinh

SLIDE OPERATORS

SATURDAY	6:00 PM SL	Volunteer
	6:00 PM ST	Michelle Chen
SUNDAY	8:30 AM SL	Volunteer
	10:30 AM ST	Manny Gonzalez
	5.00PM ST	Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 20/21 JAN

6:00 PM Volunteer
8:30 AM Volunteer
10:30 AM Volunteer

HOSPITALITY

THE BASIC LITURGICAL MINISTRY

SL WELCOMERS 27/28 JAN

6:00 PM Volunteer
9:30 AM Volunteer
10:30 AM Volunteer

20 AND 21 JANUARY

Edna Lee
 Volunteer
 Melina Barcellona
 Volunteer
 Hoa Doan & Tuyet Nguyen

20 AND 21 JANUARY

Volunteer
 Volunteer
 Kana Chelliah
 Volunteer
 Hung Dinh

20 AND 21 JANUARY

Volunteer
 Michelle Chen
 Volunteer
 Manny Gonzalez
 Toan Tran

SL CHURCH CLEANING

Roster in recess
 for January

ST CHURCH CLEANING

27th Jan. @ 9am
 Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee,
 Dzung Vu & Trong Nguyen

27 AND 28 JANUARY

Shirley Prabha
 Volunteer
 Mia Perang
 Volunteer
 Doan Pham & Chi Nguyen

27 AND 28 JANUARY

Melina Barcellona
 Volunteer
 Megan McLean
 Volunteer
 Hoang Nguyen

27 AND 28 JANUARY

Volunteer
 Michelle Chen
 Volunteer
 Lee Min Yee
 Toan Tran

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

Roster in recess

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

January - Parishioners

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 6:
 Peggy & Ngery D'Cruz
 Next week Team 7:
 Barry & Christine Silvester

Love and Mercy: Mark 6: 32 - 34

Parish Groups & Contacts

Lectors, Registrars, Collectors,
 Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist,
 Slide Projector Operator & Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo 9412 8499

SL: Margaret Gearon 0409 807 135

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano 9412 8499

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen 0422 400 116

Andy Tran 0422 382 109

Vietnamese Youth

John Dinh 0448 977 037

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon - 0433 885 087

Steve Kilroe-Smith - 0404 864 232

Parish Pastoral Council

As we are one Mission now, it has been suggested that we require only one Chair?

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

Janette Clark - 9877 2292

Fr Gerard - 9877 2292

Parish History

SL: Margaret Gearon - 0409 807 135

Whitehorse Deanery - Fr Gerard

Finance Committee

Bernard Negline

Parish Accountant

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office - 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant - 0401 644 474

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King 9412 8499

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean - 0419 347 693

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Kanagalinggam

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

Holy Communion to the

housebound - Fr Gerard

Parish Choirs

ST: Mary Italiano & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

0411 136 043

Parish & School Fete Committee

SL: Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

School Advisory Council

ST: Ms. Anne Maree Jones 9878 4188

SL: Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

School Parents' Association

ST: Ms. Anne Maree Jones 9878 4188

SL: Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Freecall: Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK: Fr Mark De Battista says that today's readings pose a great challenge to us, on the difference between listening, hearing, and obeying. Mother Hilda says God wants to carry the heavy weights of our life. Fr Tony Percy says that in our fearful, woke-world, we could all do with a good dose of satire: We are taking ourselves too seriously. Then again – and more importantly – we could all do with a good dose of Jesus. Fr Dave Callaghan observes that Technology seeks to erase every part of humanity that is deemed to be bad, but at the expense of developing true relationship, particularly our relationship with God. Pete Gilmore says our fellow humans may not live up to their word, break promises and won't see something through, but it's different with God, he who began a good work in you, will carry it on to completion. Plus, more great music!

ORDER OF MALTA LOURDES DAY MASS – SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY

2024: For some years now, the Order of Malta has organised an annual Lourdes Day Mass to provide an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm particularly for those who would not otherwise have the possibility of visiting Lourdes. The Mass will take place again on **Saturday, 10th February at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral**, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant. For further information, please contact: Sauro Antonelli AM on 0411 250 288.

THE ROAD TO LOVE MUST BE TRAVELLED SLOWLY: POPE Continuing his catechetical series on vice and virtue, Pope Francis last Wednesday dedicated his general audience to highlighting the difference between love and lust, arguing that "in Christianity, there is no condemnation of the sexual instinct". Source: CNA.

MORE ON THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS: Ched Myers, ([American theologian](#)) highlights how the great prophets of the Old Testament, Jeremiah, Amos and Ezekiel, describe how God fishes out the unjust and casts judgment upon the cold-blooded rich and powerful (see Jer 16:16, Am 4:2, Ez 29:4). Myers continues, 'Jesus is inviting common folk to join him in his struggle to overturn the existing order of power and privilege' (*Binding the Strong Man*, p. 132). What if Jesus' call to his first disciples and to us was less about how many people we can reel in while lamenting those that got away and more about doing his mission of transforming the world into a place where all can thrive? © GIA Publications

SAFETY STATEMENT: We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children and vulnerable persons in our Church. Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Blackburn South holds the care, safety, wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons as central and fundamental responsibilities of the Church. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

SUNDAY READINGS

READ AT HOME

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

21 January 2024



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.
Amen.

Readings and Commentaries

In the “Ordered” (rather than “Ordinary”) Time of Year B, the evangelist Mark is our principal guide. At the outset of this first and shortest gospel, Mark sets out his intent: “The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” He writes in plain Greek, with a journalist’s flair for story-telling and an eye for vivid detail. He presents Jesus as an authoritative teacher and powerful liberator from demonic powers. He highlights the disciples’ inability to accept Jesus’ messianic suffering. The only human being to confess Jesus as Son of God is the Roman centurion on Calvary.

A brief reminder that through Ordinary Time, the gospel is the anchor text of the liturgy of the word. The first reading, always from the Old Testament, is chosen for its connection to the gospel. The psalm, in turn, complements the first reading. The reading from the New Testament is quite independent of all the others. After our series from 1 Corinthians, the other letters we hear from are 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, James and finally chapters 2-10 of Hebrews.

A reading from the prophet Jonah 3:1– 5, 10

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.

First Reading

The conclusion to today's short reading from Jonah connects it with the story of the golden calf in Exodus 32. In both cases, we are told, "God relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he has threatened" (Ex 32:14; Jn 3:10). The outcome is the same but the two stories are very different.

In the first case, it's God's people who lapse into idolatry and are saved only through Moses' intercession. In the second, it's the foreigners of Nineveh who are called to renounce their wickedness, and it's their own repentance that spares them. Moses and Jonah themselves are a study in contrasts. Moses appears as an historical figure and God's collaborator, whereas Jonah is a fictional character and recalcitrant recruit.

It's a great shame that this sole passage from Jonah in the three-year cycle is so exclusively positive. It gives no clue to the twists and turns, the hyperbole and humour, or the serious message of the whole story. Even today the comical detail of Nineveh's animals having to wear sackcloth and fast is omitted. The book isn't long, only four chapters, and well worth reading in full.

As it stands, the reading is entirely good news. It's modest in length and action-packed. Readers will relish the opportunity to proclaim this short story.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4–9

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

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.**

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.**

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.**

Responsorial Psalm

With the responsorial psalm, the focus shifts from the collective repentance of the Ninevites to the psalmist's personal relationship with God. Like the reading from Jonah, verses have been selected from Psalm 24/25 to present a positive picture. They include no direct reference to the psalmist's admission of sin, guilt and remorse elsewhere in the psalm.

Each of the three verses has a character of its own. The first is a petition by the psalmist to be taught God's ways, with the repetition and variation that is a feature of Hebrew poetry. Words like "ways," "paths," and "walk" go hand in hand. The second is a plea for God's mercy that hints at some failure on the psalmist's part. The third is a confession of faith in God who "shows the path," "guides the humble," and "teaches his way."

In sum, the psalmist consistently acclaims the goodness of God. A trusting tone is set by the response and is maintained throughout. Readers should find it easy enough to lead the assembly in this confident and positive prayer.

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

7:29–31

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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

1:14–20

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.

Second Reading

After dealing with sexual scandal in chapter 6 of 1 Corinthians, Paul sets himself to reply to the questions about marriage, divorce, celibacy and virginity that have been put to him by the community. The lectionary overlooks much of this discussion and advances to the latter part of chapter 7 from which we read two passages.

The key to today's text is found in the opening and closing sentences. They are terse statements of eschatological urgency. Time is short, Paul says, and "the world as we know it is passing away." His acute awareness of this unique situation informs the advice he gives. That is to live radically and counter-culturally. Believers are to confound the world by behaving in ways that are the reverse of what might be expected. While married life is mentioned, it is only in passing, and all of a piece with the thrust of Paul's exhortation.

The vivid expectation that early Christians had of the imminent arrival of the end times has long faded. The world has seen many crises since then, such as the turn of the first millennium or the devastation of the plague or the horror of the Great War, that aroused fears of annihilation. Today's existential threats, such as nuclear conflagration or climate catastrophe, and the questions they raise about our life choices, can give us insight into Paul's advice.

The reading is short and serious, yet not sombre, as in essence Paul is advocating freedom of spirit. Readers should make Paul's points one by one with due deliberation.

Gospel

We heard the very first verse of Mark's gospel – "The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God" – back in Advent. His account of Jesus' baptism is read at the end of the Christmas season, and we'll hear of Jesus' temptations soon enough on the first Sunday of Lent. Today we formally commence our "Ordinary Time" journey with Jesus as he launches his public ministry.

Mark's mention of the Baptist's arrest could hardly be more laconic, but it's the first hint of the cross that is to come. For now, it's the hour of the reign of God. Scholars point out that "the kingdom of God" is a verb rather than a noun. It connotes God's "reigning." In spite of its early prominence, Mark does not refer as much to the kingdom as do the other synoptic writers. As he made clear in the first verse, he is more intent on testifying to Jesus' identity as Messiah and Son of God.

The call of the two sets of brothers and their immediate compliance establishes Jesus' authority right from the start. Mark will highlight this authority time and again. Jesus' pledge to Simon and Andrew to make them "fishers of people" suits the occasion but does not feature again once his mission gets under way. Authority and action go hand in hand in Mark's gospel. Today's reading is but the beginning.

An alternative translation of the scripture readings is given here from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). This may be particularly useful for those in parishes which use the NRSV Lectionary.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING (NRSV)

A reading from the book of the prophet Jonah 3:1–5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah, saying,
"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city,
and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."
So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh,
according to the word of the Lord.
Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city,
a three days' walk across.
Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk.
And he cried out,
"Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"
And the people of Nineveh believed God;
they proclaimed a fast,
and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.
'When God saw what they did,
how they turned from their evil ways,
God changed his mind about the calamity
that he had said he would bring upon them;
and he did not do it.

SECOND READING (NRSV)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 7:29–31

Brothers and sisters,
the appointed time has grown short;
from now on,
let even those who have wives be as though they had none,
and those who mourn as though they were not mourning,
and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing,
and those who buy as though they had no possessions,
and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it.
For the present form of this world is passing away.

GOSPEL (NRSV)

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 1:14–20

After John was arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,
and saying,
"The time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news."
As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—
for they were fishermen.
And Jesus said to them,
"Follow me and I will make you fishers of people."
And immediately they left their nets and followed him.
As Jesus went a little farther,
he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John,
who were in their boat mending the nets.
Immediately he called them;
and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men,
and followed him.

Concluding Prayer

Blessing for the Beginning of the New Year

May God, the source and origin of all blessing,
grant us grace,
pour out his blessing in abundance,
and keep us safe from harm throughout the year.

Amen.

May he give us integrity in the faith,
endurance in hope,
and perseverance in charity
with holy patience to the end.

Amen.

May he order our days and our deeds in his peace,
grant our prayers in this and in every place,
and lead us happily to eternal life.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on us and remain with us for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for the Beginning of the Year, Roman Missal p 710)

AUSTRALIA DAY 2024

Dorothea MacKellar wrote this poem, '*My Country*', in 1908 while she was visiting England and missing her home country. The second stanza is possibly one of the most well-known and recited pieces of poetry in Australian history.

The love of field and coppice
Of green and shaded lanes,
Of ordered woods and gardens
Is running in your veins.
Strong love of grey-blue
distance,
Brown streams and soft,
dim skies I know,
but cannot share it,
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror
The wide brown land for me!

The stark white ring-barked
forests,
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold hush of noon,
Green tangle of the brushes
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree-tops,
And ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When, sick at heart, around us
We see the cattle die
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the rainbow gold,
For flood and fire and famine
She pays us back threefold.
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze ...

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand
though Earth holds many
splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.



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Lourdes Day Mass

Saturday 10TH February 2024
at 10:30am
at St Patrick's Cathedral



ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
MELBOURNE



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