

# The Living Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

21 January 2024

## First Reading Jon 3:1-5. 10

*The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.*

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.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4**

**(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.**

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 1 Cor 7:29-31

*The world as we know it is passing away.*

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.

## Gospel Acclamation Mk 1:15

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The kingdom of God is near:**

**believe the Good News!**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mk 1:14-20

*Repent, and believe the Good News.*

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.



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

When Jesus says to Simon, Andrew, James and John 'I will make you into fishers of men', then, amongst the many levels of meaning they would have heard the allusion to Ezekiel 29:3-5.

Jesus was telling them that he was creating a society of liberated human beings, called the 'Kingdom of God'. This would involve struggle against powerful elites, the pharaohs of this world, who oppress and enslave people. It would be as dangerous and demand as much energy as required to haul a crocodile out of the Nile.

Yet they did so, 'straightaway'. Because of the call of Jesus? No. At least, not that alone. We read 'He saw Simon and his brother Andrew . . . He saw James and his brother John.' They were responding not to his voice alone but to his eyes. His is like the attentive gaze of a parent loving a baby into a beautiful future. Jesus looks at you and at me wanting to love us into a barely imaginable future.

We could pause for a moment to remember that when His call comes, demanding an 'aye' or a 'nay', the Eyes have it.

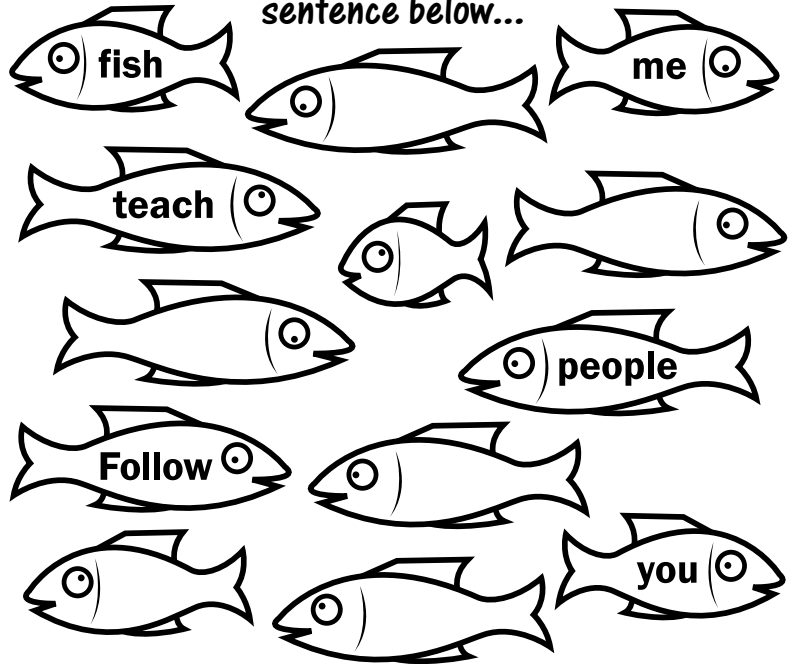
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**S**t Agnes was a young girl who lived at the time of Christian persecution in fourth century Rome. One tradition suggests that at the age of twelve, she refused to consider marriage because of her dedication to Christ, and instead offered herself as a martyr for Christ. Her name means "lamb" in Latin, and every year on her feast day two lambs are blessed, and their wool is used to weave the pallium, which is presented by the Pope to all newly appointed Archbishops.

Use the words in the fish to complete the sentence below...



\_\_\_\_\_ and I will \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

# Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



Andrew  
 believe  
 boat  
 father  
 fishermen  
 Galilee  
 James  
 lake  
 net  
 news  
 time  
 went

Z	J	C	P	G	I	K	V	M	A	B	L	H	C	C	J	N
E	I	T	O	W	X	H	Y	H	G	P	W	H	U	A	W	E
K	V	B	R	D	A	O	C	U	M	A	E	L	R	C	N	Z
T	A	C	L	N	Z	J	X	U	N	I	L	P	U	E	P	R
E	J	A	M	E	S	A	T	T	V	U	A	I	M	N	R	Q
N	V	G	K	T	K	S	A	N	Q	A	W	R	L	N	F	T
A	Y	N	Z	P	N	O	L	E	H	P	E	E	C	E	B	E
E	K	Z	L	A	B	N	F	F	A	H	W	V	Q	B	E	L
P	G	Z	H	E	V	Q	S	P	S	E	F	A	T	H	E	R
X	T	S	R	G	E	E	H	I	R	L	S	A	T	G	T	U
I	M	V	Z	M	P	I	F	D	N	U	A	W	T	A	N	C
B	E	L	I	E	V	E	N	I	I	D	J	K	E	E	E	P
S	I	M	C	P	N	A	T	S	S	S	I	H	E	N	W	E
J	H	S	Z	T	Y	I	Y	V	I	C	Y	I	D	H	T	N
C	G	P	C	Q	M	T	B	X	M	Y	N	V	Q	M	C	C
H	D	O	S	E	P	H	T	R	O	W	M	S	D	K	V	I