

LIVING FAITH

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 24, 2021



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Mark 1:14-20

Now 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 lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he 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.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD OF GOD



Whenever there is a change in government, there is a period of time when the new leader engages in a process of selecting who will form the members of cabinet and fill other important offices. It is a process that takes time and considerable research and effort. In Mark's Gospel today, it would seem that Jesus takes no time nor does he do any research in choosing his "cabinet" of apostles! He calls people as he meets them and they drop everything and run to follow him. Very different from today's standards of selection!

Throughout Mark's Gospel, the first canonical Gospel to be written, Mark writes with a sense of urgency. Mark says that Andrew, James and John all left their fishing nets "immediately". Mark was concerned, as the eye witnesses to Jesus' life, death and resurrection began to die, that the story of Jesus Christ would be lost so he set out to write down the story for posterity. Mark's priority is less about details and more about getting out the essential points; thus, things happen at a rapid pace through his Gospel.

The selection of apostles reveals that the mission of Jesus was never meant to be a solo endeavour; it was to be shared and to be collaborative. It was to unfold within a community of relationships. God's Son, the Word made Flesh, sought out others to collaborate with him in proclaiming the Gospel and building the Kingdom.

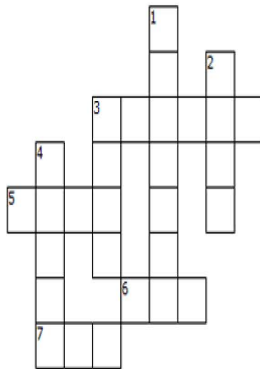
It tells us that at the very heart of Jesus' vision is collaboration, community and sharing. In a world today that is divided by bitter partisanship and a distinct *lack* of collaboration, our God shows that a generous invitation to build relationships among diverse people so as to work together is the will of God. To collaborate on a common vision for the good of all is an essential part of the paschal mystery. For us Christians, this is the way.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS



- How have you lived out your Baptismal call to be a member of the community of missionary disciples?
- How do you proclaim the Good News in and through your life today?

Crossword Puzzle



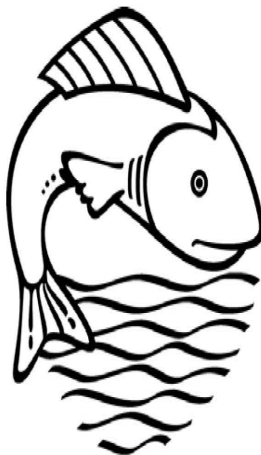
ACROSS

3. To get behind someone and go where they go
5. A report of recent occurrences
6. An openwork fabric of cords used to catch fish
7. A large area of salty water, smaller than an ocean

DOWN

1. An area of Israel; the place of Jesus' ministry
2. A small vehicle for travelling on water
3. An animal which lives in water and is covered with scales
4. The Son of God

GALILEE	NEWS	JESUS	FISH
FOLLOW	SEA	BOAT	NET



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Following the Leader

Mark 1:14-20

Word Search

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

JOHN	NEWS	CASTING	FISHERMEN	SIMON
KINGDOM	BOAT	GALILEE	NETS	BELIEVE
ANDREW	REPENT	SEA	BROTHER	FATHER
GOOD	COME	FOLLOW	JAMES	LAKE

THE CHURCH TEACHES

POPE FRANCIS HAS DESIGNED TODAY, THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AS THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Pope Francis instituted 'The Sunday of the Word of God' to be held every year on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time, with the Apostolic Letter in the form of a *Motu proprio* *Aperuit illis* issued on 30 September 2019. This day reminds us, pastors and faithful alike, of the importance and value of Sacred Scripture for the Christian life, as well as the relationship between the word of God and the liturgy: "As Christians, we are one people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us. A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers. For this reason, we need to develop a closer relationship with Sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, inflicted as we are by so many forms of blindness".

The title of the document, *Aperuit illis*, is equally important. They are its opening words, taken from St Luke's Gospel, where the Evangelist describes how the Risen Jesus appeared to His disciples, and how "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures".



A response to requests

Recalling the importance given by the Second Vatican Council to rediscovering Sacred Scripture for the life of the Church, Pope Francis says he wrote this Apostolic Letter in response to requests from the faithful around the world to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God.

An ecumenical value

In the *Motu proprio* (literally, "of his own initiative"), Pope Francis declares that "the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God". This is more than a temporal coincidence, he explains: the celebration has "ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity".

A certain solemnity

Pope Francis invites local communities to find ways to "mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity". He suggests that the sacred text be enthroned "in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's Word". In highlighting the proclamation of the Word of the Lord, it would be appropriate "to emphasize in the homily the honour that it is due", writes the Pope.

POPE FRANCIS THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD



The Bible is for all

The Bible is not meant for a privileged few, continues Pope Francis. It belongs "to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words". The Bible cannot be monopolized or restricted to select groups either, he writes, because it is "the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity".



POPE FRANCIS PROCLAIMS THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH DECEMBER 8, 2020-DECEMBER 8, 2021

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, and a father in the shadows. This week, we share the third aspect, shining a light on Joseph as an obedient father. Here’s what Pope Francis has to say...

As he had done with Mary, God revealed his saving plan to Joseph. He did so by using dreams, which in the Bible and among all ancient peoples, were considered a way for him to make his will known.

Joseph was deeply troubled by Mary’s mysterious pregnancy. He did not want to “expose her to public disgrace”, so he decided to “dismiss her quietly” (*Mt 1:19*). In the first dream, an angel helps him resolve his grave dilemma: “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (*Mt 1:20-21*). Joseph’s response was immediate: “When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (*Mt 1:24*). Obedience made it possible for him to surmount his difficulties and spare Mary.

In the second dream, the angel tells Joseph: “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him” (*Mt 2:13*). Joseph did not hesitate to obey, regardless of the hardship involved: “He got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod” (*Mt 2:14-15*).

In Egypt, Joseph awaited with patient trust the angel’s notice that he could safely return home. In a third dream, the angel told him that those who sought to kill the child were dead and ordered him to rise, take the child and his mother, and return to the land of Israel (cf. *Mt 2:19-20*). Once again, Joseph promptly obeyed. “He got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel” (*Mt 2:21*).

During the return journey, “when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. After being warned in a dream” – now for the fourth time – “he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth” (*Mt 2:22-23*).

The evangelist Luke, for his part, tells us that Joseph undertook the long and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered in his family’s town of origin in the census of the Emperor Caesar Augustus. There Jesus was born (cf. *Lk 2:7*) and his birth, like that of every other child, was recorded in the registry of the Empire. Saint Luke is especially concerned to tell us that Jesus’ parents observed all the prescriptions of the Law: the rites of the circumcision of Jesus, the purification of Mary after childbirth, the offering of the firstborn to God (cf. *2:21-24*).



The window depicting St Joseph with the child Jesus, found in the clerestory level in the Basilica-Cathedral of St John the Baptist, St John’s.

This window was crafted in Beauvais, France by Louis Lichtenfeld-Koch in 1891.

Click [here](#) for a copy of *Patris Corde*.