

LIVING FAITH

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 21, 2024



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 GOSPEL

In that Gospel passage Jesus speaks three times, and Mark (the Gospel-writer) records three important words which change the lives of four men. The three words are verbs: Repent, Believe and Follow. The four men are two sets of brothers: Simon & Andrew and James & John (sons of Zebedee). Mark introduces us to those four men as **examples** of anyone who desires to live a rich and meaningful life. They are especially examples for anyone who would live a rich and meaningful **Christian** life. Let's reflect on the three verbs that shape the lives of missionary disciples:

+ **Repent** has a particular meaning in the Gospels; it includes but means much more than turning away from sin. The Greek word translated as "repent" means something like 'change your way of thinking and acting,' or 'think beyond the way you are thinking now.' Be open to see things in a new way – and to act in a new way.

+ To say, "I **Believe**" means "here I stand, here I place my trust." For Christians it means I place my trust in Jesus and what he teaches; I believe in the Good News of salvation and new life.

+ If we're ready to change our way of thinking and acting, and if we believe in Jesus and his teaching, then the next step is to **Follow** Jesus. We base our lives on Jesus and the Good News he proclaimed, and we take his life as a model for our own.

For most people the journey through repenting, believing and following is not so sudden as Mark described of the first four disciples. For most of us, it's a gradual, ongoing process – with many ups and downs. Wherever you are on the journey, perhaps hearing this Gospel account again can be like receiving a renewal notice for a subscription. If you don't want your subscription to run out, get renewed. It's never too late. Repent, Believe, and Follow!

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS



- Take a few minutes to imagine yourself as one of the four apostles in the Gospel scene. What did you feel or hear or see or think? How would you react to the words of Jesus? Share the fruit of your imagining with those who are with you.

OR

- Following the same procedure, imagine yourself as Zebedee (the father of James & John) or as one of the hired hands on Zebedee's boat.

Fishing for People

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Mark 1:17 (TNIV)

Based on Mark 1:14-20



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

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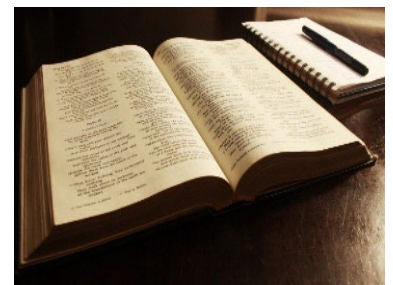
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THE CHURCH TEACHES

POPE FRANCIS HAS DESIGNATED 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

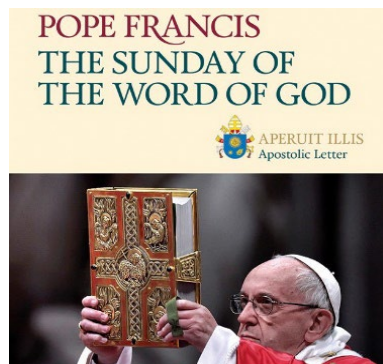
Recalling the importance given by the Second Vatican Council to rediscovering Sacred Scripture for the life of the Church, Pope Francis says he wrote this Apostolic Letter in response to requests from the faithful around the world to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God.

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.



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".

THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY LOOKING AT THE SYNTHESIS REPORT



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Synodality is the way, the way to translate into attitudes of **communion** and processes of **participation** the trinitarian dynamic with which God, through Christ and the breath of the Holy Spirit, comes towards **humanity**.

Franciscans
30-11-2023



ENGAGE PERSONALLY

Be a living example of Christ in all that you do.



ENGAGE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Participate in the Eucharist more often as a family.



ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

welcome and accompany those who seek faith in Christ

