



Gospel Acclamation Jn 1:41. 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah:

Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 1:35-42

They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

What's in a name? A Lot, if it is God who confers the name. Jesus of Nazareth, the embodiment of God-for-us, knew the power of naming in relation to calling and destiny.

So, when Andrew brought his brother to Jesus, Jesus exercised the divine prerogative of changing Simon's name to 'Cephas' which in English is 'Peter'. Jesus gave Simon a nickname, 'rock-solid' which was the exact opposite of his character! Nevertheless, he did become the rock on which Jesus built his Church.

The tradition continues with the successor of Peter. So, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio took the name 'Francis' which indicates that he believes that the Holy Spirit inspired the Cardinals to choose him to be Pope to follow in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi.

Each one of us has a divinely ordained name (Rev 2:17) which we may not be aware of, but the Holy Spirit is always prompting us to live up to that name.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we might so live as to reach Heaven to find that name which God has loved from and for all eternity.

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The Living Word

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

14 January 2024

First Reading 1 Sm 3:3-10.19

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. v. 8.9

*(R.) Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord.
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. (R.)

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 6:13-15. 17-20

Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.



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Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS:

Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.

Spanish Speaking Mass 12:30pm;

Filipino Mass monthly 4th Sunday at 12:15pm

WEEKDAY MASS:

During January - Mondays - Church open for private prayer

Tuesday - Saturday 8:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday - 9:00am to 3:00pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next week 3rd Ordinary: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.

Fr Stan writes ...

Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptised by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist. Notice that Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?



**The parish office will be closed on
Monday 15th January**

Will reopen Tuesday 16th January at 12 noon



Putting Jesus Back in the Box

The Christmas holiday has come and gone. Time to take down those decorations, Christmas trees and lights, including those religious scenes and figurines. Along with the tinsel and multicoloured lights, the little statues of the baby Jesus will be placed in boxes and storage bins and stored away till next December. People will stop posting memes that say

"Jesus is the Reason for the Season" and "Put Christ back in Christmas" on social media. The time of year in which so much attention is given to Jesus Christ has past. Sadly, many people will not attend church, pray, or even mention Jesus until the traditional Easter holiday. They will return to their busy lifestyles full of work and play. It would seem that they have put Jesus in a box, only to let Him out on a couple of religious holidays during the year.

It has been said that we should be thankful that so many think about Christ, even if it's for a short time. However, such traditions practiced only occasionally do not find favour with the Lord. Jesus said if any person desires to follow Him, they must deny themselves, pick up their cross and follow Him everyday (Luke 9:23). What a worthy goal it is to have Christ in the forefront of our daily activities, including bible reading, prayer, evangelism, benevolence and regular worship. Enjoy every day of the New Year and seek blessings from God.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Throughout January 2024

Monday: Church will be open for private prayer

Tuesday to Saturday Mass 8:30am.

The usual schedule with devotions will resume in February 2024



PRAYERS FOR HEALING: Andrew Chan, Dean Davids, Joseph Papandrea, Vic & Avonia Moran, Joan Johnston, Michael Maglunog, Baby Addison Jean Oldman, Greg Forrester, Vianney Brown.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Norman Merlino, Kathryn Kennedy, Maria Arena, Giuseppe Petrolo recently deceased.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Angelo & Carmela & Angelo Scicluna, Albert Khoshaba, George Maiolo, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale & Teresa Papandrea, Tony Bietola, Giovanni & Santina Bietola, John & Robyne Bietola, Sam Tedesco, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, the Escalante & Venal families, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Carmela, Angelo, Paul Scicluna, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Mary & Sam Bietola, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Gianni Gualdi, Antonino, Tindara & Vincenzo Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Fr Kevin O'Grady, Stefano Zappia, Polocrispo & Rosalinda Romagos, Rufino & Esmeria Acosta, Denis Wonderley, Marie & Jim Hyde, Tony Ayres, Rosina Buono.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office 9390 5810/ safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police