

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Sunday 24 January 2021



Readings for
this week:

Jonah 3:1-5,10

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20



Readings for
next Sunday: Job 7:1-4,6-7
1 Cor 9: 16-19,22-23
Mark 1:29-39



Liturgical Jottings

Jonah

The Book of Jonah is regarded as a parable or even a satire. It contains so many unlikely events: Johan being thrown overboard by sailors and swallowed by a big fish; coming to shore and reaching a great city where everyone from the king, the people, children and the animals accept him and repent, even he pigs put on sackcloth and do penance. After his success he is angry, even depressed, the castor bean tree growing overnight and dying the next.

This post-exilic book serves to teach about God's call and desire for universal salvation. It is the non-believers that believed in God and discerned Jonah's plight. It is the non-believers of Nineveh that accepted God's call for repentance. This book is relevant now as it was 2,600 years ago.

Looking at the Readings

In the Ordinary Season the first reading relates to the Gospel. The Old Testament provides background or prophecy to the things to come. There are two points of connection in today's reading. The Call to Discipleship and the Preaching on Repentance. Jonah is chosen as the missionary. Peter, Andrew, James and John are chosen as apostles. Jonah is to preach repentance. Jesus takes on John the Baptist's call in Judea to go to Galilee and continue proclaiming the Good News and repentance.

Unlike Jonah reluctance and John the Baptist keeping himself in the wilderness waiting for people to come to him, Jesus ministry is immediate - he goes to them and his preaching is urgent. Mark's gospel narrative races along, the first four disciples leave their boats at once and follow Jesus. Also Paul reflects this urgency in his early letters: "Time is growing short." He urges us to be free from earthly attachments, albeit necessary for earthly living, and be free to attain what is eternal for everlasting life.

Pope Francis "Aperuit Illis"

Sacred Scripture accomplishes its prophetic work above all in those who listen to it. It proves both sweet and bitter. We are reminded of the words of the prophet Ezekiel when, commanded by the Lord to eat the scroll of the book, he tells us: "It was in my mouth as sweet as honey" (3:3). John the Evangelist too, on the island of Patmos, echoes Ezekiel's experience of eating the scroll, but goes on to add: "It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter" (Rev10:10).

The sweetness of God's word leads us to share it with all those whom we encounter in this life and to proclaim the sure hope that it contains (cf. 1 Pet 3:15-16). Its bitterness, in turn, often comes from our realization of how difficult it is to live that word consistently, or our personal experience of seeing it rejected as meaningless for life. *Para 12 on Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God 30/9/2019, Memorial of St Jerome, 1600th anniversary of his death*

Prayer for the Week

O God, Your word summons us to faith. Free us to follow in Christ's footsteps, so that neither human loyalty nor earthly attachment may hold us back from answering your call.

On the Lighter Side - some one-liners

I didn't like my beard at first, but it grew on me.

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went; then it dawned on me.





Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving

Diane Mulcahy

For those whose anniversary occurs at this time

Nella Gallo

Our sick and their carers

Dorothy Bock, Sue MacDonald, Teresa Muto

Continuing the Journey of Discernment to the Plenary Council

The 3rd of 6 Diocesan wide Zoom Discernment Sessions will take place on Thursday 4th February at 7:30pm.

All are invited to take part in this process of discernment focusing on the Thematic Paper "How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is open to Conversion, renewal and reform?"

Email plenary@sandhurst.catholic.org.au to register and receive the Zoom details.

To access the thematic paper head to the Plenary Council Website:

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/renewal/

Next Reconciliation Saturday 13 February 2021

Please note there will be no reconciliation for the next two weeks.

The next reconciliation will be held on Saturday 13th February at 11:30 am until 12:00 noon in the Nuns Chapel for now.

Mass Timetable Week commencing 25th January

Weekday Mass

Monday 25 th January	No Mass
Tuesday 26 th January	No Mass
Wednesday 27 th January	No Mass
Thursday 28 th January	No Mass
Friday 29 th January	9:15 am Liturgy

Weekend Mass

Saturday 30 th January	5:30 pm
Sunday 31 st January	9:30 am

No Reconciliation (in the Nuns Chapel)
Saturday 30th January

TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM

UNPACKING THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
THE CATHOLIC FAITH

WEEKLY THEOLOGY AND CATECHESIS FOR
ALL ADULTS, LED BY A LOCAL THEOLOGY
TEACHER

Tuesday Evenings

Starting February 2, 2021

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Mons. Peter Jeffrey Centre

St. Brendan's Parish Shepparton

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
HAYDEN - 0438 071 630

LENT 2021 WITH BRUCE DOWNES THE CATHOLIC GUY

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"Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel."
Proverbs 27:9