



**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY  
TIME YEAR A**

**8 January 2023**

**LITURGY AND BULLETIN**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

*Father of heaven and earth,  
hear our prayers, and show us the way to peace in the world.,  
Amen.*

**FIRST READING:** A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel,  
in whom I shall be glorified';  
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,  
my God was my strength.  
And now the Lord has spoken,  
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant,  
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;  
I will make you the light of the nations  
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Response: Here I am, 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.

## **SECOND READING:** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him  
to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

## **GOSPEL:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:29-34

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'



### **Reflection on the Gospel John 1:29-34 by Greg Sunter**

Strangely, despite being in Ordinary Time again, the lectionary temporarily departs from the gospel of Matthew and today's reading is from the gospel of John. Given that last week's reading was the Matthean account of the baptism of Christ we must assume that there is a deliberate purpose in the choice of reading for today. Indeed, the three readings for today give a very specific slant to the baptism and mission of Jesus. The readings from Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Corinthians emphasise that God's salvation is for all the world, not just the people of Israel. We find this also in the gospel when John the Baptist declares, 'there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world'. It is the sin 'of the world' that Jesus takes away; that is, all humankind. This was a tough concept for the Jews whose relationship with God was grounded in the concept of being the 'chosen people'; a people set apart. It continues to be a difficult concept for many Christian people today who struggle with the notion that God's love and mercy are so extravagant that they are poured out for absolutely anyone and everyone. Some Christians like to maintain an 'us and them' approach to their faith and think that if you're not one of 'us' then salvation will be denied by God.

The role of John the Baptist in this passage is to be a witness; to point to Jesus and say 'He is the one!' Lots of us need the affirmation and direction provided by another person before we are ready to commit to a new direction in our lives. John gives the crowd confidence and effectively hands over to Jesus the authority that the crowd had perceived in him.

### **Living the Gospel – Pointing the way**

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he

is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

### **Scriptural context – Baptism of Jesus**

Each of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Luke and Matthew) presents an account of the baptism of Jesus. All three versions record the Spirit descending in the form of a dove. In the fourth gospel, it is interesting that the gospel writer does not actually give an account of the baptism as by the time of this gospel's writing the story is well entrenched in the Christian culture. Instead of a baptism account, John the Baptist appears to recall the event. Rather than needing to describe the event, this gospel writer treats it as a given and simply refers to it.

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Reader: That the Church, formed in Christ, will reinterpret the Gospel for these times with integrity and compassion. *(pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: That there will be unity among Christians everywhere who profess faith in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. *(pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: That those in authority will be mindful of the effects of their power on those they serve. *(pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: That those who work tirelessly in the service of others will be renewed and strengthened. *(pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: That this community, made holy by baptism, will be empowered by the Spirit to give witness to the presence of Christ among us. *(pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

That all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Paul Fa'Oa, Rongo Tee Petti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley, Val Biggers, the residents of the Aged Care Unit and all who need our prayers; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community. *(Pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: That those who have died will take their place among the saints, including Pope Benedict XVI, Laurie Moran, Wynne Jones . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, *(pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Lord,  
you have nourished us with your Word.  
Fill us with your Spirit,  
and make us one in peace and love.  
Amen.*

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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm**

**Weekday Mass: in recess until further notice**

**Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am**

**Social Justice Group: Tuesday 1 February 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery**

**Call to Connect Women's Prayer Group** in recess  
**Krawarree January Mass cancelled**

Dear Parishioners,

**Market Helpers needed:** Cathy Ffrench needs ticket sellers for the market raffles. Can you spare an hour once a month on the Friday before the markets to sell tickets? Please call her on 0418 262 011 if you can help. Our markets are our biggest income stream, so it is really important that we do all we can to help to make them successful. Our next market day is 28 January and raffle tickets will be sold on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Isaiah 49:3,5-6. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Cor. 1:1-3. John 1:29-34.

**Readings for next week:** 1<sup>st</sup>: 8:23-9:3. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Cor. 1:10-13,17. Gospel: Matt. 4:12-23.

**Ministry Rosters for our Masses**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Welcomer</b>	<b>Readers</b>
14 Jan	Felix	Helen P	Wendy M-B/Ann T
21 Jan		Geraldine	Michael/Wendy H
28 Jan	Felix	Cathy F	Bobbie/Tommy
4 Feb		Helen P	Wendy H/Germaine

<b>Ministries of service:</b>	<b><u>13 Jan</u></b>	<b><u>20 Jan</u></b>	<b><u>27 Jan</u></b>	<b><u>3 Feb</u></b>
Altar Decorating:	Helen P	Joy	Margaret	Cathy F
Cleaning:		Bani & Ella		Pauline & Wendy M-B

Counters: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sunday: Wendy H  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: volunteer please 4<sup>th</sup>: Phil Owen

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care of each other  
Helen Hart