



St Patrick's Parish Cooma
St Columbkille's Parish Jindabyne



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

25 January 2026

First Reading Is 8:23-9:3

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase,
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing
the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of
Midian.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
Before whom shall I shrink? *(R.)*
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. *(R.)*

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

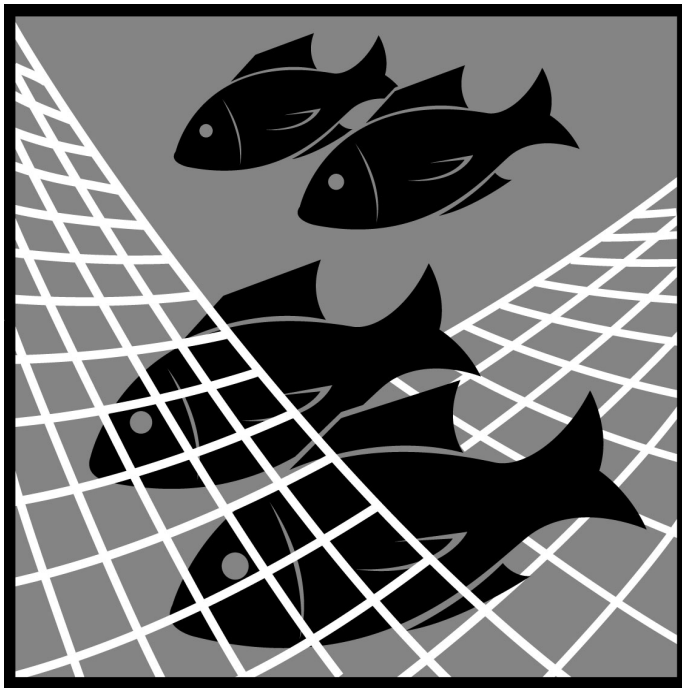
Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Jesus preached the Good News
of the kingdom**

and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!



Reflection by Greg Sunter

In today's gospel passage we see the importance that the gospel of Matthew gives to portraying Jesus as the fulfilment of scripture. Throughout this gospel, the author is at pains to demonstrate that Jesus fulfils prophecy. The purpose in doing this was not only to tie Jesus into the prophecies of the Messiah but to demonstrate that Jesus was part of God's plan all along. This gospel was written at a time when there were growing tensions between early Christian communities and mainstream Jews. By highlighting the fulfilment of scripture, the author attempts to firstly reassure the Christian community in the face of aggression and resentment from the mainstream Jews and secondly, challenge those who oppose the Christian sect to see this movement as just another thread in the ancient story of their people.

Having established the credentials of Jesus, the gospel writer then provides a summary of the teaching that will be played out in the gospel, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' Repent had a far more powerful meaning than what we tend to ascribe to it today. Much more than simply being sorry, repent carried with it a sense of turning one's life around; making amends for past failures; and choosing a whole new direction for one's life. Literally, it meant a 'change of mind'. To demonstrate the urgency and strength of this teaching, Jesus calls his first four disciples who immediately drop what they are doing and set out on a new life with him. These disciples are the first of many to 'repent' and turn their lives around.

Gospel Mt 4:12-17 (or longer form Mt 4:12-23)

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and
shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

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