

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

21st January 2024



'Repent and believe the Good News'

Mark 1

This Sunday's Gospel showing Jesus calling his disciples can be a challenging passage. It is meant to challenge us with the message of God's kingdom, with the call to discipleship and our appropriate response.

Are we actively following Jesus? If not, we need to ask ourselves, "Can I call myself a Christian?" A Christian is someone who follows Jesus. That's the call so if we are not following Jesus, then what are we doing?

Jesus said, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mark 1:17) Jesus calls us to follow him and, in following him, to bring others along. God's kingdom is meant to be shared. We need to be wise and looking for opportunities to lead other people to Christ. Has Jesus made us fishers of men?

The disciples left everything behind in order to follow Jesus. Following Jesus is actually a whole series of leaving things behind. When we first begin to follow Jesus, we leave our old way of life behind, but as we continue to follow, we will have to leave other things behind along the way. What might God be asking you to leave behind? What is standing in the way of you following Jesus today?

The call to follow Jesus is the call to discipleship. Christ is calling you. How will you respond?

This week let us pray for:

- ◆ strength and support for all those facing difficulties with their health;
- ◆ all those who are feeling isolated;
- ◆ all those who may be feeling lonely;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time has been declared to be the Sunday of the Word of God.

*Living God,
You walk alongside us
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears
and shows us how to live for one another.
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds
so that we may be Your witnesses throughout the world.
Amen*

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger*

"Jesus is not a figure from the past: He continues now and always to light the way for us. "

Pope Francis