

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

18th January 2026



The water that I will give him will become a spring of water within him welling up to eternal life.
JOHN 4:14



This Sunday's Gospel marks the beginning of the public life of Jesus. Christmas is over, the child is grown up and the man is baptised in the waters by John the Baptist - a sign that he is indeed true God and true man.

In John's Gospel this week, we hear of John the Baptist testifying that Jesus indeed is the Son of God and the Son of man. Jesus is walking by him, and John, seeing him pass by, says, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." This phrase has become a key part of our Eucharistic celebrations but have we ever stopped to consider its true meaning for us?

John the Baptist has in mind something much deeper, something much more important than the analogy of Jesus being a shepherd to his flock. He is telling his disciples that Jesus is the sacrificial lamb, offered at the time when the people were under the slavery of Egypt when the lamb became the sacrifice by which all of them were freed.

Jesus is the lamb who is the sacrificial lamb. This is the Messiah who does not come with great armies. This is the Messiah who comes to us as a sacrificial lamb and, as John says, who offers his whole life that sins might be forgiven.

God had given His people His love and they had failed to share His love with each other and failed to love Him back. As a result, God gave us Jesus and he became the lamb led to the slaughter to show us the depth of God's love and to make us understand that sin is a failure to care and a failure to love.

Jesus became one with us and walks with us through life, every bit a human being. He came so that he might take away all sin. For if sin is a sin against the love of God, Jesus redeems us by his great love, not only for God his Father, but for all of us.

Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

John 1

Lord, I behold Your divine presence today and every day. I seek You and love You. Give me the eyes of faith to discover Your real but hidden presence at all times. You are all around me every day. Help me to rejoice in how near You always are. Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen.

In addition, this week let us pray for:

- ♦ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning;
- ♦ all those affected by the ongoing war;
- ♦ all those affected by the storms.



O God of peace, who are peace itself and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive, grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed. Amen



"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace." - Pope Francis