

# SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

Please note that the reflections sometimes use examples that come from an American context



January 17, 2021

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 | 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 | Jn 1:35-42

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Have you ever seen *The Good Place*? While clearly not theologically accurate, it is a thought-provoking Netflix comedy that focuses on four good but flawed characters who meet in the afterlife. I can relate to the character of Chidi, who strives to live a moral life but is crippled by indecisiveness. Do I buy the brown shoes or the black ones? Should I order the salad or the salmon? And I still can't decide on a career! So I'm amazed at John and the disciples in today's Gospel. John immediately recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God. Hearing this, do the disciples ask for a second opinion or draw up a pros and cons list? Nope. They follow him. They recognize the Messiah and act. Their response of faith challenges me to think less and do more, to worry less and pray more. We may not see Jesus in his human form walking by, but we can see his image in others, and hear him through the Scriptures and at Mass. Let us pray for the grace to respond wholeheartedly.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Everyone loves an invitation, though perhaps we've forgotten what those are like during these months of pandemic. Today's readings remind me that, pandemic notwithstanding, we all have a standing invitation from God; it's up to us to respond. When Samuel heard God's voice in the night, he listened. In today's responsorial psalm, we hear, "Here I am Lord; I come to do your will." And the Gospel tells us how the disciples dropped everything to follow Jesus. Through prayer, we, too can listen for God's voice and respond. And, just as Eli realized God was calling Samuel and John encouraged the disciples, we can accompany others. By sharing our experience and inviting others to share the way Jesus has spoken to them, we can encourage one another as we seek to turn our lives over to God.

**STUDY** Many of us slow down a bit during these wintry months after the holidays. Why not use our "down time" to listen to God's word, not only by attending Mass in-person or online, but through popular apps like iMissal and Word on Fire. Invite friends to do the same and then hold each other accountable by initiating an online group to discuss each week's readings.

## Requiescant in Pace

This week we heard of the sudden death of Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, Archbishop of Glasgow and formerly Bishop of Paisley. We keep the Archbishop in our prayers, asking the Lord to bring the soul of his faithful servant to the joys of the heavenly liturgy.

We also heard just on Saturday of the death of Canon Brendan Healy, who of course continued to minister here for some years in his retirement. We give thanks for his goodness, for all he did to the benefit of the people of our parish community and beyond. We pray that the Lord will likewise bring his soul to the joys of the heavenly liturgy.

Finally, we pray also for the happy response of the soul of Bishop Vincent Logan, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Dunkeld. One of his major contributions to the Church in Scotland was within the realm of Vocations, Priestly Formation and the establishment of Priests for Scotland.

*The Archbishop's Funeral Rites will be celebrated in St Andrew's Cathedral.. Only 20 of the Archbishop's closest family and friends will be able to attend and people are asked to comply with the current advice to stay at home and to participate spiritually using the live-streams that will be available and are noted below.*

*Vigil and Reception of Remains of Archbishop Tartaglia on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30 pm accessible by using this link: <https://youtu.be/idlkb2sNUcc>*

*Funeral Mass on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 12 noon, accessible by using this link: <https://youtu.be/tS6rtYC0DhM>*

**These links are also available on the front-page of our website**

## Online Services

**During the lockdown, please continue to join together in our celebration of Mass each day (live at 10am or recorded anytime thereafter) and Devotions, which will take place this week at 5pm on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.**

## Thank You

For your continuing donations to support the parish over these past months. While these are essential for us, for many people this is a difficult time and everything that you give is very, very gratefully received and much appreciated

While the building closed, donations can be made in various ways -

- many people have started using Standing Orders, the forms are available on our website and should be returned to Fr. Jim.
- Online donations can be made through online offertory button on our website.
- If you are legitimately out of the house for exercise or some other reason, then envelopes can be posted through the Church House letterbox.

## Adult Education Talks

You are invited to our next talk on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm** on The Teachings of Saint John Paul II **by Bishop John**. Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/96974935970?pwd=b04ya2pUOEIxeXJhRElkdXlHVXlwQT09>

Passcode: 758071

## Vocations

Families need blessings of patience, forgiveness, gratefulness and love. Can you bring the Gospel to families in your community? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, deacon sister contact Fr. John

Morrison 01418895056 or e-mail  
[vocations@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdop.org.uk)

## **Online Marriage Counselling available during Covid 19 Crisis**

Our diocese has a Counselling Service for Catholics Married in the Catholic Church with our dedicated Catholic Marriage Counsellor. If you are concerned about your relationship and feel you are both unable to reach a conclusion alone, it is likely that you will benefit from marriage counselling. The counsellor is there to maintain a neutral, non-judgmental position. For information or advice please email in confidence  
[counselling@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:counselling@rcdop.org.uk)

## **200 Club**

We will be running the 200 Club in the coming year, therefore:

1. If you still wish to take part and already pay monthly through your bank, this will simply continue.
2. If you wish to make a one-off payment, or join for the first time, please contact Joseph McKeeman on 07760 542275 or email [joseph.mckeeman@btinternet.com](mailto:joseph.mckeeman@btinternet.com) for details on how to do this.
3. If you need a note of your number, or have any other enquiries, please contact Joseph (as above).