



AMDG
SECOND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A,
19TH JANUARY 2020



**It is not enough for you
to be my servant ...
I will make you the light of the nations!'**

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.

As we begin the New Year, whatever our mood or life-situation, our readings give us hope and comfort as we celebrate Jesus Christ's life of service and ministry.

In the so-called 'Servant Song', Isaiah writes of the mysterious servant of the Lord God. Christians have long identified him with Jesus, who was formed by God in the womb and sent into the world as 'the light of the nations'. (*First Reading*)

The words of the *Psalmist* would fit well on the lips of the Servant. He worships God with 'an open ear', and with a spirit that delights in generous service.

In the *Gospel*, we encounter not only Jesus as he begins his public ministry, but also John the Baptist, who witnesses to Jesus's baptism. John hears the voice of the Father and sees the Spirit descend and rest on Jesus: a revelation of the three persons of the Trinity.

In the *Second Reading*, Paul wishes the Corinthians the grace and peace of Christ; a grace that implies everything associated with God's free gifts to us in Christ.

We, too, like the Corinthians, have a calling to be holy and to lead a life of prayer. This week, we might pray for the grace of an 'open ear' and an open heart, and ask for continued faithfulness in our Christian ministry this coming year.

PSALM 39 (40)

R./ Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.

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.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I.

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.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

I start my prayer allowing time to slow down from the busyness of life.
I pray for the Spirit's grace to help me have an 'open ear' to the voice of the Lord.
Perhaps I offer my presence by slowly repeating:
'Here I am Lord. I come to do your will.'

It may help me to imagine Jesus sitting next to me as we pray this psalm together
to our attentive, gentle Father. I pause ... and wait upon God to 'hear my cry'.
Can I sense and trust that God is waiting for me, too?

I notice the heartfelt gratitude – even the deep delight – of the psalmist.
Perhaps these are gifts and graces I, too, would like to pray for?
I ponder, allowing the Lord space to be active in my life.

I reflect on how the Lord might be calling me to do his will in the year ahead.
In what ways might I be drawn to 'proclaim his justice'?

I entrust my whole being to Jesus, sharing with him all that arises within me,
and allowing space to hear his reply.

When I am ready, I end my prayer slowly, giving thanks.

GOSPEL JOHN 1: 29–34

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. ‘It is I who need baptism from you,’ he said, ‘and yet you come to me!’ But Jesus replied, ‘Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.’ At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.’

I allow a sense of internal stillness to emerge by deliberately slowing down and letting go of my stream of thoughts and feelings.

I ask the Holy Spirit to come to my aid, to create a space for my encounter with the Lord.

When I am ready, I read the Gospel several times over.

I note and attend to what draws me from within the passage.

Like John, I, too, may look at Jesus ... *really* look, and see him for who he truly is.

How would I describe him: a deeply trusted teacher, a friend or...?

Maybe I do not know him well enough or even trust him yet?

Or – again like John – I may want to ponder my sense of growing faith and the ways in which I recognise Christ in my life today.

I reflect on who he is for me, in all aspects of my life.

I beg the Lord that I might see him, love him, and follow him more fully, day by day.

I spend time in prayerful attention, perhaps pondering my own baptism.

What might God be asking of me now, as his witness?

I speak to the Lord from the depths of my heart and mind.

As we begin 2020, I pray for the Spirit to rest on the whole world, on the baptised and un-baptised; to bring healing, hope and a recognition of Christ in our midst.

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

It is not enough for you to be my servant; ...

I will make you the light of the nations, so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

First Reading

My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. *Psalm*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Second Reading

Fill us with your Spirit, and make us one in peace and love.

Prayer after Communion

This week's texts if you want to reflect further

Isaiah 49: 3, 5–6; Psalm 39 (40); 1 Corinthians 1. 1–3; John 1: 29–34



He put a
new song
into my
mouth,
praise of
our God!



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
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JESUIT
Ministries



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