



AMDG  
3RD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR B  
21ST JANUARY 2018



**‘Follow me!’**

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God  
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,  
that in the name of your beloved Son  
we may abound in good works. Amen.

In the weeks following Christmas, we have been invited to reflect on Jesus’s call, beginning with him being drawn out of the waters of baptism and into his missionary life. This week (in Mark’s *Gospel*) we see the fishermen – Peter, Andrew, James and John – respond immediately to that same call. They are drawn from the waters by Jesus to become fishers of people.

The *First Reading* tells of the second call of Jonah, who initially refuses the Lord’s request, and tries to run away. Then, in a humorous reversal of fishing logic, Jonah is caught by an obedient fish. The Lord continues to be with him, however, for, at the command of the Lord, Jonah is saved from the water and is empowered to respond to the Word.

In the *Second Reading*, St Paul urges the Church at Corinth that nothing should be allowed to interfere with their obedience to the Word. He says that time is short and that everything, from domestic to international affairs, should be seen from the context of Christ.

There is much calling to which we are invited to respond. As with Jonah and the first disciples, we are called by the same voice, inviting us to take steps on the path toward that which is good and true.

Today’s *Psalms* also offers a simple, initial response for both new and not-so-new disciples alike. It is a good prayer for the coming week: ‘Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.’

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM 24 (25)

*R/. Lord, make me know your ways.*

**L**ord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor.

I come to my place of prayer, aware of being in God's presence.

I receive this psalm knowing that Jesus and his disciples would have prayed it too.

I read the verses of the psalm slowly and prayerfully, choosing to put myself in God's hands.

I ask him to teach me how he wants me to live my life in response, in a spirit of truth and love.

I notice what thoughts and feelings surface in my mind and heart.

I speak with God about them – confident that he listens with love and understanding.

I share with God any concerns or worries that I have about the future, and ask again that, in his goodness, he will remember me with mercy, and teach me to 'walk in his truth'.

During the week, I may wish to use the response to the psalm as a brief prayer, now and in my busy times. It may help me when I am challenged or have a decision to make.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit ...*

## GOSPEL: MARK 1: 14–20

**A**fter John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come,’ he said, ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.’ And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

I read this text quietly from the heart. I allow words or phrases to touch me. I let myself be drawn by what moves me.

It is the living Word, the Good News that Christ himself gives.

As I read, I might be impressed by the response of the disciples to the call of Jesus from the shore. It is whole-hearted.

Perhaps I am struck by the pace of the text.

Jesus says the time has come, and calls on the people to repent and believe.

He calls the disciples and they follow immediately.

I ponder on the ready trust they show in Jesus and on the trust he shows in them.

I might like to reflect upon the same Christ calling my name from the shore of my own life.

How does his voice sound?

Does it ring clear, or does it have to compete with other voices demanding my attention, investment, and commitment?

How does this voice console me?

I end my prayer by pondering this message of Good News.

I talk to Christ in my own words, asking that it sink down into the deepest part of my heart and soul; that I might really believe and trust.

*Our Father ...*

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

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

*Psalm*

Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.

*Gospel*

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
the one who follows me will have the light of life.

*Gospel*

All-powerful and ever-living God,  
direct your love that is within us,  
that our efforts in the name of your Son  
may bring mankind to unity and peace.

*Old Opening Prayer*

*This week's texts if you want to reflect further*

*Jonah 3: 1-5. 10; Ps. 24 (25): 4-9; 1 Cor. 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20*



**'Come,  
follow  
me ...'**



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

**JESUIT**  
Ministries



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