



# Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

22 January 2017

Year A



### Next Week's Readings

**1st Reading:** Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13

**2nd Reading:** Corinthians 1:26-31

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:1-12

### RESPONSE

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

### ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!*

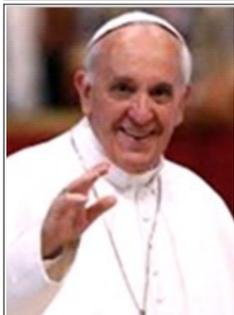
### SHINE YOUR LIGHT

In the passage selected for today, Jesus makes his appearance as a great light that has arisen in Galilee of the Gentiles. He is light for a people who have lived in darkness and the shadow of death and oppression. In the context of Roman imperial rule, Jesus offers hope of an alternative reign. We might focus on the gift of light. Without an appreciation of light itself we cannot really understand this image.

Jesus invites his hearers to expand their horizons, to "repent" for the empire or kin-dom "of the heavens" has come near. He then calls four fishermen to follow him, to join him on his mission of proclaiming the empire or reign "of the heavens". The verb "to follow" is an invitation to live out in their lives/our lives the pattern of Jesus' life. They "immediately" leave their boat and their father and follow him. Later in the story we find they still have their boat, an indication that, at some levels, the story is to be read symbolically. At times we need to distance ourselves from family expectations for the sake of the gospel. At times we have to de-centre our material possessions even while we affirm the goodness of their materiality and their significance for the work of the mission.

One might get the impression that the alternative community that Jesus forms around him is all male. This impression is dispelled a few verses later when we learn that "great crowds followed him" (4:25). In Matthew 18, there is specific mention of children and, towards the end of the gospel, we find that women have "followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him" (27:55). There is a far more extended group around Jesus than today's reading might suggest. Women, men, and children, we are all invited to turn our lives around and to live out in our lives the pattern of Jesus' life.

*Excerpt from Sister Veronica Lawson, rsm gospel reflection at [www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org](http://www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org). Image from [www.progressiveinvolvement.com](http://www.progressiveinvolvement.com)*



### POPE: 'STAGNANT' & SELFISH CHRISTIANS ARE HOPELESS AND UNABLE TO COPE

Christians who forge ahead with hope in God have the strength to endure life's dark moments, Pope Francis said in a morning homily. However, Christians who refuse to fight for positive changes that benefit everyone are 'stagnant' and selfish, he said on 17 January during the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae. Christians who are 'lazy' or 'lukewarm' in the faith 'have found in the church a nice parking lot' for themselves where their lives are protected 'with all possible guarantees,' he said. It's like 'living in a refrigerator' that preserves things to stay just as they are, he said. 'Lazy Christians,' he said, are 'Christians

that have no desire to move forward, Christians who do not fight for things that bring change, new things, things that would be good for everyone if these things were to change.'

Such 'stationary' Christians, he said, remind him of an old saying back home warning that stagnant water is the first to go bad. 'Lazy Christians' have no hope, he said; they are 'in retirement,' which is fine after decades of work, but 'to spend your whole life in retirement is awful' with never anything to look forward to on the horizon.

Christians who are 'parked' or stuck in one spot 'are self-centred. They only look at themselves, they don't know how to lift their heads to look' at God, Pope Francis said.

A true Christian life, he said, is 'a courageous life' built on hope.

Complete text at [www.melbournecatholic.org.au](http://www.melbournecatholic.org.au)

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Maria Vroomen, Frank Atkinson, Peter Zanelli, Brian John Feruglio, Veronica Goldfinch, Patricia McLoughlin, Alice Dunne, Caterina Palone, William Healey, Thomas Nuttall, Des Talent

**SICK:** Mary Edmonds, Brian Taggart, Pauline Muscat, Marta Kristan, Kala Lindsay, Geoff Bell, Stan Piergrosse, Peter Himing, Dorothy Reilly

### POPE WRITES TO YOUNG PEOPLE AHEAD OF SYNOD ON VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT



Pope Francis has written a letter to young people as the Church prepares for a Synod of Bishops on the theme: 'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment'. The Pope's letter was published last Friday ahead of a press conference at the Holy See Press Office to present the preparatory document for the Synod which will take place in October 2018.

Please take a copy of the letter available in the Narthex. Alternatively, you can check the full article at [www.melbournecatholic.org.au](http://www.melbournecatholic.org.au)



### ST PETER'S SQUARE BECOMES A MINI ZOO FOR BLESSING OF ST. ANTHONY

On Tuesday morning, the Vatican became a mini zoo as farmers rushed to St Peter's Square with their animals, both large and small, to receive a special blessing on the feast day of St Anthony the Abbott, the patron saint of farmers and the protector of animals. A variety of animals, including cows, donkeys, horses, rabbits, and chickens were present as well as various Italian families who raise the animals on farms near Rome. Please watch the video at [www.melbournecatholic.org.au](http://www.melbournecatholic.org.au)

### Feasts of the Week

- 24 January - St. Francis de Sales
- 25 January - The Conversion of St. Paul
- 26 January - Australia Day celebration
- 28 January - St. Thomas Aquinas



**Healing Mass**  
with Fr. Augustine Vallooran, VC  
on Tuesday, 24 January 2017, 7:00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Bayswater

### THANKSGIVING

\* CHURCH : \$ 1,664 \* PRIEST: \$ 1,300  
(RETIRED PRIESTS & ARCHDIOCESE)

### MUSLIM ENCOURAGES CATHOLICS TO VOTE IN INDONESIA POLLS



A prominent Muslim intellectual has urged Indonesian Catholics to put any prejudices aside and vote in regional elections next month for leaders that can make society a better place for all citizens, regardless of their religious or ethnic backgrounds.

Millions of Indonesians will elect new leaders on Feb. 15 in more than 100 regions across the archipelago, including Jakarta.

"We have to vote for a brave leader who can make changes in this capital," Mohammad Qodari, a prominent Muslim intellectual and executive director of Indo Barometer, an independent research and survey institute, told hundreds of Catholics at a gathering at Sacred Heart Church in Central Jakarta, on Jan. 15. Complete text at [www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com)



### CARDINAL TAGLE LEADS BAPTISM OF 400 CHILDREN FROM MANILA SLUMS

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila led the baptism of some 400 children from Manila's poor districts of Tondo and Navotas on Jan. 14.

The event was initiated by the Tulay ng Kabataan Foundation, which has been taking care of poor children in the capital's slums since 1998.

Virginia Ybanez, a teacher at the foundation, said the children who were baptized and their parents "have voluntarily submitted themselves for baptism" after catechism.

In his homily, Cardinal Tagle reminded parents to guide their children and to remind them how Jesus "cared for those who are neglected and abandoned." Full text at [www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com)

*Start doing what's NECESSARY*

*Then do what's POSSIBLE*

*And suddenly you are doing the IMPOSSIBLE*

*- St. Francis of Assisi -*



**PARISH DINNER**  
26th February at 6:00pm  
in the Narthex. Tickets will be available soon!

Please take time to check Melbourne Catholic website ([www.melbournecatholic.org.au](http://www.melbournecatholic.org.au)) as the article on the Golden Jubilee of our parish was featured this week.