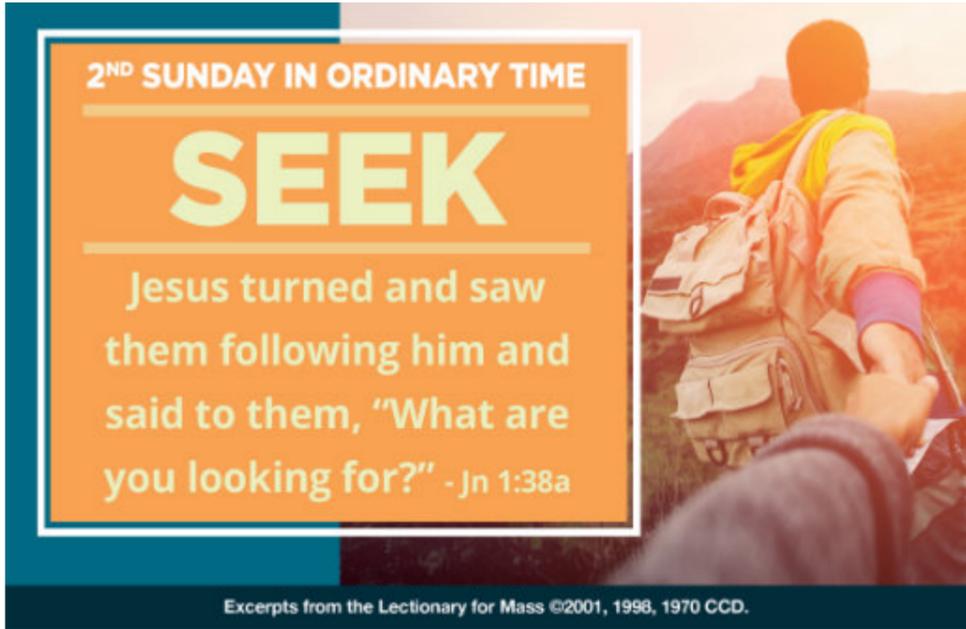




parish newsletter

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B) | 17 January 2021

Reflecting on the Gospel



Our faith is not just about ideas. It's really about having an encounter with God and, in particular, the Risen Christ! Once we give ourselves over to the notion of God's presence, we have to train ourselves to

listen for God's voice and be attentive to God's call. Having companions on our faith journeys is so incredibly important as they can help us fine-tune our listening skills and discern God's voice from others

we may be hearing. Faith is all about having these profound encounters not only with God but with our brothers and sisters, and creation itself. Any one or anything that is alive with God's presence

Live the Liturgy

Inspiration for the Week

We have often heard it said that God is always calling but we are not always listening. It is not only that we are not listening, but that we are not familiar enough with God to even recognise that it is God who is calling! We can easily mistake God's voice for someone or something else and miss some profound opportunities for connection. We have to train our minds, hearts, and souls to specifically

listen for the voice of God. It is a voice that draws us to deeper places, leading us to moments of grace and more profound God awareness. To look at Jesus and be able to say, "Behold, the Lamb of God," means that I know something special about this person whom others know as simply a man. I will become more attentive and receptive when he says, "Come, and you will see." I may even be more willing to set aside what I am doing and actually go.

A Prayer to Be Open to God's Will

Good and gracious God, I know that life can be unpredictable. Sometimes I know what is good and right, but I don't have the courage to do it. Sometimes I am so busy with my own affairs, I forget to see the needs of people in front of me. Sometimes I am set in my own ways, and I resist growing and learning. Help me, Lord, to be open to Your will. When You prompt me to do the right thing, give me the courage to do it.

When those around me need my help, give me Your heart to love them. When I'm stuck in my own ways, give me the grace to grow closer to You every day. Give me the trust and confidence of Mary. Let it be done unto me according to Your word!

Amen.

Everyday Stewardship

Tracey Earl Welliver, MTS

"You don't need to shout. My hearing works just fine."

Are you a parent that has used that one on your kids? I'm not sure at what age they realise that the volume of their voice doesn't correlate to the likelihood of receiving a favourable reply—it might be sometime in the teenage years, when the talking slows down altogether.

But I've got to admit, it would be nice if God always gave us a loud and dramatic sign when He wanted something—the booming voice and the torn-open heavens ("This is my beloved Son!") really get the message across. Sometimes I find myself envious of the Apostles, who were able to witness such things in person.



The fact of the matter is, in the year 2021, God is more likely to speak in a whisper than in a shout. The

voice leads us to the Person behind it. The Gospel is hard to follow. We can intellectually debate whether what Jesus said is really what we are asked to do. The Gospel ideas do not always make sense in our practical, secular world. The person of God always does. We can debate the practicality and sense of ideas and doing so often keeps the more difficult ones at a safe distance away from us. Jesus said to love our enemy, but we really don't need to do that, our minds try to convince us. It just doesn't make sense. Yet, if we are truly in love with the God who is behind the voice of those words, they make perfect sense. Our deep and intimate love of this God would even find us laying down our lives for Him if necessary. Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

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Readings

First Reading

When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for you servant is listening." (1 Sm 3:9-10)

Psalm

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will (Ps 39)

Second Reading

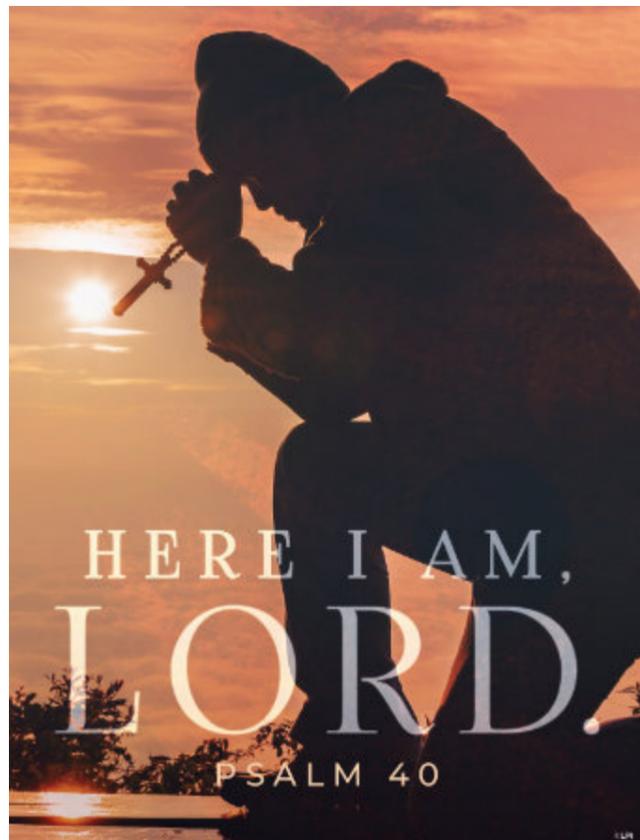
Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. (1 Cor 6:15, 17)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah—which means the Christ—grace and truth have come through him. Alleluia!

Gospel

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. (Jn 1:39)



prophet Isaiah forewarns that Christ himself will not be a noisemaker—for all his preaching, he will not cry out or shout to bring forth justice to the nations. His way is altogether different than that.

We are not the Apostles, and we do not have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Christ like a dove. But here's the good news: God doesn't need to shout. Our spiritual hearing works just fine. We just have to be listening.

Let's wake up each morning ready to hear God's whispers throughout the day. Let's make a conscious effort to invite those whispers into our hearts, where they can become a catalyst for grace in this world.

Masses this Week

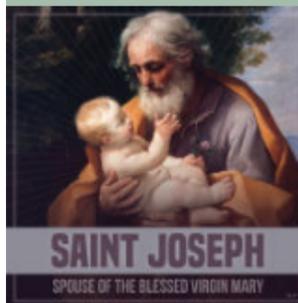
17	SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42
	10.30	Mass St Mary's In thanksgiving Hojlla Family
	17.00	Mass St Mary's People of the Parish
18	Monday	Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 2:18-22
	12.05	Mass St Mary's In Thanksgiving Candelon FFamily
19	Tuesday	Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c [5]/Mk 2:23-28
	12.05	Mass St Mary's Intentions of Bob Dunn (90 th B'day)
20	Wednesday	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 3:1-6
	12.05	Mass St Mary's Sr M. Bede (RIP)
21	Thursday St Agnes	Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:7-12
	12.05	Mass St Mary's Sheila & Harry Burnikell (RIP)
22	Friday	Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [11a]/Mk 3:13-19
	12.05	Mass St Mary's For those who have died in the Pandemic
23	Saturday	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Mk 3:20-21
	11.00	Mass St Mary's Family Intentions (AA)
	18:00	Vigil Mass St Cecilia's People of the Parish
24	THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20
	10.30	Mass St Mary's Les & John Lane (RIP)
	17.00	Mass St Mary's Lorraine Elizabeth Purdy (RIP)

Parish Prayer for the Year of Saint Joseph

Almighty God, you have chosen Saint Joseph to be the mainstay of Jesus and Mary, the wise and faithful servant in whom they could trust.

We pray that he may be the guardian of our Parish and our families; that he may inspire with confidence those who seek his protection; that he may give security to those who work in the vineyard of your Son; and finally, that he may be a source of strength to us, who wish like him, to dedicate ourselves ever more fully to Christ's service, now and in times to come.

Amen.

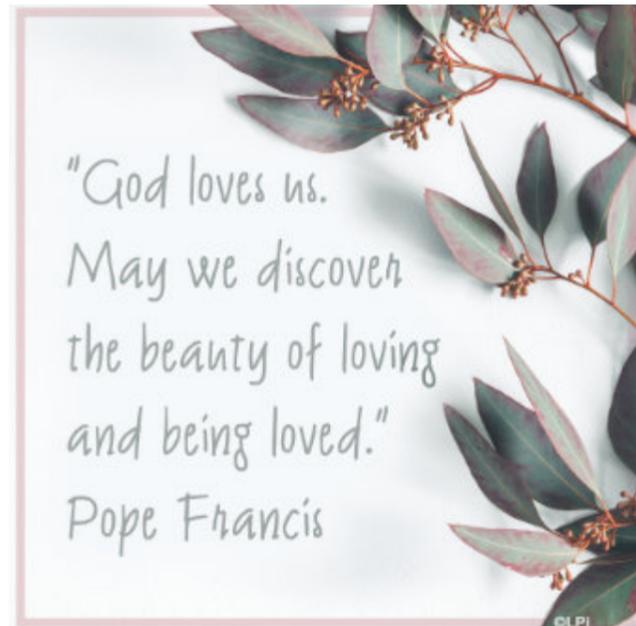


Questions for the Week

First Reading: Eli was the priest of the temple in Shiloh. He raised Samuel and helped Samuel to hear God's voice in his life. Who have you taught to hear God's voice?

Second Reading: Paul taught the Corinthians that believers should "glorify God in your body" by avoiding immorality. What do you think is needed to live a good, moral life?

Gospel: In John's account of the call of the first disciples, Jesus poses the question, "What are you looking for?" In your own spiritual journey, how do you know you have found Jesus?



Why do we do that?

Catholic life Explained



Question: Why is the Blessed Sacrament often kept in a side-chapel?

Answer: While many Catholics of a certain age have memories of the Blessed Sacrament being housed in the tabernacle on the

high altar of the church, many parishes in the decades since the Second Vatican Council have chosen to build a separate space—a reservation chapel—where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. Although this practice is not universal, it is in keeping with the guidance offered by many bishops across the world. The goal is to create a space that is separated from the nave and sanctuary, but which is "integrally connected with the church" which can foster "reverence and can provide the quiet and focus needed for personal prayer." This can be especially important for communities that have continuous Eucharistic adoration, allowing people to come and pray in a space separate from the normal activities of parish life.

The practice of reserving the Eucharist in a separate space—or in a dignified location away from the altar where Mass is celebrated—is that it emphasises the importance of the liturgy itself, which is the "source and summit" of the life of the Church.

As with many things in the Church, the practice of placing the tabernacle in the sanctuary or in a separate chapel is not universal (as can be seen in visits to historic churches in Rome and other places). The important thing is that as the Blessed Sacrament is prominent in the church building and the lives of the faithful.

News & Announcements

Public Worship is Still Allowed

We are grateful that we are still able to open our churches for Mass. However, please observe the government guidelines especially if you are vulnerable and shielding. There is no obligation to attend Mass at the moment and you can follow the 10.30 Sunday Mass as normal on the parish Facebook Page.

Email Newsletter

Sign up on our Facebook page to get the newsletter emailed to you every week. Alternatively, you can download it and read back issued on the parish website at sunderlandcatholic.com.

Baptism

Congratulations and welcome to Aisling Mary English on the occasion of her Baptism.

SPUC White Flower Appeal

This weekend at all Masses we are holding the White Flower Appeal for the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child. Please be as generous as you are able.

Flock Notes

Since coming to Sunderland a few months ago, I've been struck by the number of local saints. Last week we celebrated the patron saint of Sunderland, St Benet, for example. I've never lived in a city with its own patron saint before!

Keeping up these local observances is important, I think, for two

reasons. First, these saints keep us grounded in our faith. Yes, they lived long ago in circumstances very different to ours, but despite the best efforts of so many people through the centuries, we continue to keep in an unbroken line the same faith that they had. The faith we profess every week has been professed in this city for centuries.

Second, these local saints remind

us that in the 'great cloud' of witnesses—the saints in heaven—there are people who speak like us, who know us and understand where we come from. Holiness and sainthood are possible for us in Sunderland. Benet and all the others testify to what lies in store for us all. Saints of Sunderland, pray for us!



Student Chaplaincy

The University Chaplaincy events are all online for now, just email Mary (lay chaplain) for more information: sunderland.chaplaincy@rcdhn.org.uk or to join the student WhatsApp group. The chaplaincy is here to support you during your time in Sunderland, so just get in touch if you need a chat.

Every week:

Monday Morning Prayer 9am

Tuesday Games Night 7pm

Thursday Cathsoc Prayer/Social 6pm - This Thursday, we have "Ask a priest" with Fr Emmanuel ready to answer your questions on the faith!

Northern Cross Newspaper

There are some forms at the back of Church for anyone interested in taking out a subscription to the Diocesan newspaper the *Notherrn Cross*. You can have it delivered either by email or by post and support the diocesan newspaper during these difficult times.



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Rev Eddy Barker, Parish Deacon

Canon Alexander Barras, Priest in Residence

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