

dwell in us. Without the Spirit, no one can say, “Jesus is Lord” (1 Cor 12: 3) The Holy Spirit allowed John to recognise Jesus and will allow us to recognise the Lord present in our midst in the Sacraments & in his Word proclaimed in the Church.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished.

**Communion Antiphon**

*You have prepared a table before me,  
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.*

**Prayer after Communion**

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart.

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“In the same movement in which the Son delivers himself, dedicates himself, & sacrifices himself, the Father receives, transfigures, & glorifies him... To realize our being we have to become a sacrifice with Jesus... Self-renunciation, poverty, abandonment, dying to self, are simply movements towards God. In them we actualise our humanness & transcendence.”

Sr. Ruth Burrows

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Year A*

### 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The season of Christmas has finished and we now enter into Ordinary Time. Every year, on this Sunday, John’s Gospel is read. The purpose of this is to place Ordinary Time in continuity with the birth and manifestation of the Lord celebrated at Epiphany and at the Lord's baptism. So before we begin following Matthew’s Gospel (Yr A), we hear of the witness given to Jesus by John the Baptist: Jesus is revealed as the 'Chosen One of God' who will take away the sin of the world. This theme is picked up by Isaiah when we hear of the 'Suffering Servant' who will become a 'light to all nations'. And again, in Psalm 39: *Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.* Let us resolve, at the beginning of this new year, to be open to God's Word and to walk in his ways.

**Entrance Antiphon**

*All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name, O Most High!*

**Collect**

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.

**ISAIAH 49: 3, 5-6**

The Lord said to me, ‘You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’ And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honoured in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— he says: ‘It is

too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

#### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

Today we hear the Second of four songs found in Isaiah (chapters 40 – 55) telling of a mysterious figure - *the Lord's Servant or Suffering Servant* - who, through following the Lord's way, will suffer and die, and as a consequence, will bring life to all. Who Isaiah envisaged this figure to be, we do not know, but today, as Christians, we clearly understand the prophecy to be fulfilled in Christ. In today's passage we learn that the mission of the Servant is not just to bring life to Israel, but to be a light to all nations.

**PSALM: 40(39):2, 4. 7-8. 8-9. 10.8, 9**

**Response:** *Behold, I have come, Lord, 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 delight not in sacrifice and offering, but in an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come.'

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me: 'I delight to do your will, O my God; your instruction lies deep within me.'

Your uprightness I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O LORD.

#### **1 CORINTHIANS 1: 1-3**

Paul, called by the will of God to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

Today, we begin a series of seven readings from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. Written around 55AD, Corinth was a thriving Greek city & sea port. Paul addresses the many problems in the young church & seeks to answer questions. Today we read the very beginning of his Letter and Paul reminds the people that they are all called to holiness – to copy the example of Jesus Christ.

*Alleluia, alleluia! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; to all who did receive him, he gave the authority to become children of God. Alleluia!*

#### **JOHN 1: 29-34**

At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me." I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

#### **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

At every Mass, as the priest elevates the host, we hear the words: "Look, the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world". What do they mean to us? There is a freshness in today's gospel as the Baptist gazes on Jesus and proclaims the words for first time. In the Old Testament the lamb is the victim sacrificed to take away sin. The Passover lamb was also a symbol of liberation and of communion with God, since it was at the Passover that Israel became God's people. Note also: How Jesus approaches John. Jesus always makes the first move - for God's goodness always precedes our own efforts; all that we say and do is a result of God's prompting love. 'Look' - John invites us to gaze, to adore on the One who saves. 'I saw the Spirit coming down and resting on him... he will baptise with the Holy Spirit' - We can only receive life if we allow God's Spirit to