



2nd Sunday Ord. Time, Yr B

Lectio Divina

Lectio: Though we are in Yr B, the year of Mark, our gospel text is taken from the gospel of John.¹ Mark's Gospel is brief and concise, so texts from John's Gospel are used to fill out where Mark has said very little. Our text is the call of the first disciples. Next Sunday we will hear Mark's recounting of the same event. So, what does John's text focus on? John's gospel has presented Jesus as the Word of God (Jn1:1-18). He then goes on to have Jesus reveal himself through Seven Signs. Our text is within the seven days² leading up to the First Sign: The Wedding at Cana. Our text is on the third day. On the first of these days John the Baptist was questioned about his identity. He is the one coming before the Messiah. On the second of these days, he points out Jesus who came to him for baptism. He saw the dove come down on Jesus as he was being baptized and declares that Jesus was the chosen one of God. John the Evangelist was a disciple of John the Baptist so he recounts what he saw and what he did; though he does not name himself. Jesus, the next day after his baptism, walks by and is pointed out as the Lamb of God by John the Baptist. The disciples, Andrew and John¹, follow Jesus. At Jesus' invitation, they stay the day with Jesus. On the fourth day Andrew presents his brother Simon Peter³ to Jesus. So our text focusses on recognizing Jesus and spending time with him as the beginnings of being a disciple of Jesus.

Read: John 1: 35 - 42

Meditatio: With whom do I stand? How do I stand with disciples of Jesus? Does Jesus 'pass me by' because I am not attuned to his voice⁶ or ways? Do I 'stare hard' at my life or just let things 'pass me by'? Do I take time to reflect on life and on my relationship with Jesus? Have I used lockdown times to reflect on life? Do I look to Jesus as the Lamb of God i.e. the one who freely offered his life for our salvation? Do I listen to Jesus because he is The Teacher (The Rabbi)? What do I want? Do I want only visible things rather than invisible things e.g. relationships, love, faith, hope and joy etc.? How would I respond to an invitation to 'come and see'? Am I interested in how other people live their lives; Jesus lived an ordinary (real) human life? How is Jesus' life (death and resurrection) an example/inspiration to me? Do I spend time with Jesus? In my life, do I have 'times spent with Jesus', e.g. Lectio Divina, Mass, daily prayer and reflection, Eucharistic Adoration etc.? Have I participated in the Watch on Holy Thursday? Have I invited friends or relations to join me at Mass? Have I been instrumental in bringing others to faith in Jesus? How important is my faith to me?

Oratio: Pray for faith/vision to see Jesus in our lives. Pray for an increase of prayer and reflection in our lives. Pray the Jesus will be The Teacher for our lives. Pray in thanks for Jesus who gave his life as the Lamb of God for our salvation. Pray that Jesus may live in our homes. Pray for those who do not yet know Christ. Pray that opportunities for evangelization will be taken up. Pray for those who are beginning to know Jesus. Pray for confidence when Jesus 'looks hard' at us. Pray for world-wide safety and peace.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer – Make time for prayer and reflection in your life.

✍ Fr Joe

John 1: 35 - 42

As John¹ stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard⁵ at him and said, ‘Look, there is the lamb of God.’ Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, ‘What do you want?’ They answered, ‘Rabbi’ – which means Teacher – ‘where do you live?’ ‘Come and see’ he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter⁴. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John³; you are to be called Cephas⁴’ –⁷ meaning Rock.

Notes:

1 There are three Johns in our reading. The first John is John the Baptist, the second John is John the Evangelist (unnamed) one of the two disciples of John the Baptist and the third John is the father of Simon (who was re-named Cephas, Rock), the brother of Andrew the other of the two disciples of John the Baptist.

2 John is describing the beginning of Jesus’ ministry as happening over seven days like the story of Creation in the Bible (Genesis 1:1-2:4). Also, seven is a symbolic number for fullness or totality.

3 Andrew and Simon Peter were sons of their father John.

4 Effectively: Peter = Rock = Cephas. John refers in this early text of his Gospel to Peter’s prime position among the apostles. This would be because his gospel was written when Peter was living out his prime role among the apostles in the early church (90’s AD) and his faith was the rock on which the Church was being built.

5 John the Baptist ‘stared hard’ and near the end of our text Jesus too ‘stared hard’.

6 Consider how the young Samuel was unable to understand that the Lord was calling him 1st Sam 3:3-10,19 i.e. the First Reading of this Sunday’s Mass.

7 Note: John in his Gospel uses dashes to add his explanation of terms since he writes his Gospel to people who might not have knowledge of terms from Jewish or Greek traditions.