

The Living Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

22 January 2023

First Reading Is 8:23-9:3

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase,
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing
the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of
Midian.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
Before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. (R.)
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From

what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Jesus preached the Good News
of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 4:12-17

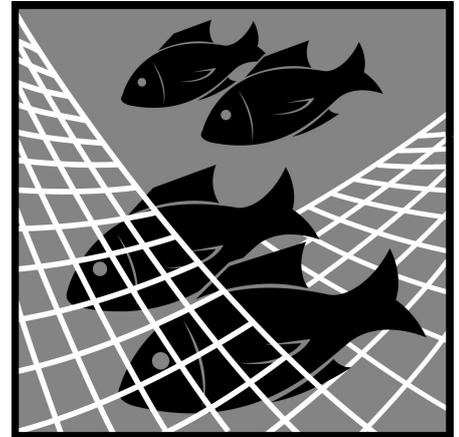
(or longer form Mt 4:12-23)

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and
shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Two sets of two brothers were running successful family businesses. But once Jesus passed by and called them, the Gospel says, at once they left their boats and followed him. I think because, hearing his voice, they realised that Jesus was the true vocalist of God.

Irish author and mystic, John O'Donohue, once wrote, 'Something in us senses and knows how perfectly the contours of the soul fit the divine embrace.' *

Maybe Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John sensed that, in this Jesus, there was a Soul whose contours perfectly fitted the divine embrace. They were prepared to risk everything for the chance to have their souls contoured along the same lines.

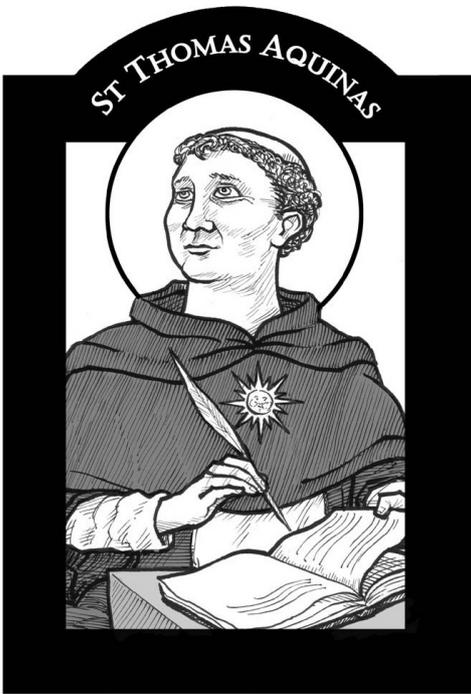
The call: 'Follow me ...', was not to an isolated individual promising to save his soul, but to two brothers and then another two brothers. Immediately, a community was being formed and its task was to bring others into that Jesus-following community.

We could pause for a moment to hear the brothers beckoning us to follow the call of that voice sounded by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

*John O'Donohue, *Divine Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*, Bantam Press, 246.

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St Thomas Aquinas was born in c.1225 and was one of the many children of the Count of Aquino. He was educated by Benedictine Monks, but eventually joined the mendicant Dominican friars in 1244, much to the shock and anger of his family. His brothers kidnapped and imprisoned Thomas in an attempt to change his mind, but after a year he was released. He went on to study under St Albert the Great and took a degree of master in theology. He devoted his life to teaching, preaching and especially writing; his philosophical and theological works have become integral to the thinking of the church. He experienced a divine revelation which led him to abandon his writings, claiming that they were but straw in the wind when compared to the reality of the divine glory. He died four months later due to poor health. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1567.

The first disciples to be called by Jesus were all fishermen. Connect each of these apostles with his correct description.



Andrew



John



Peter



James

Also known as Simon, Jesus called him the “rock” upon which he would build the church. After the Ascension, he became a leader of the apostles and is regarded as the first pope.

He was the brother of John and one of the sons of Zebedee. He was chosen by Jesus to be one of the witnesses to the Transfiguration. He was the first of the apostles to be martyred.

He was one of the sons of Zebedee and a close friend of Jesus. He stood at the foot of the cross with the virgin Mary during Jesus’ crucifixion. One of the Gospels bears his name.

He was the brother of Peter and the first called by Jesus. He was martyred by being crucified on an ‘X’ shaped cross, which became his symbol. He is the patron saint of Scotland.

Crossword



Down

- 1: daughter is to mother, as son is to ...
- 2: used for catching fish
- 3: Jesus said to the fishermen “---- with me!”
- 4: The brother of John who was also a fisherman
- 5: Simon, the fisherman, was also known as

- 9: a large body of water
- 10: animals that live in the sea

Across

- 1: people who catch fish
- 6: the number after one
- 7: God’s kingdom of eternal life
- 8: make better, cure
- 11: Jesus walked along the shore of this lake

