

# The Living Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

25 January 2026

## 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

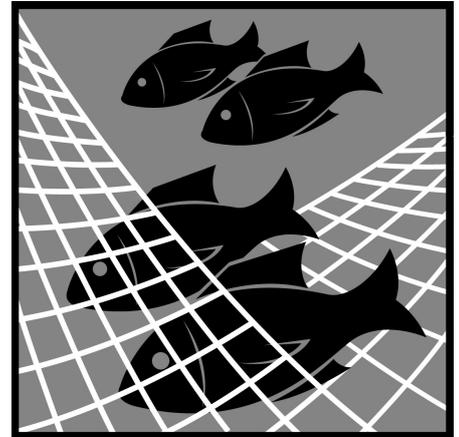
**(or longer form Mt 4:12-23)**

*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.

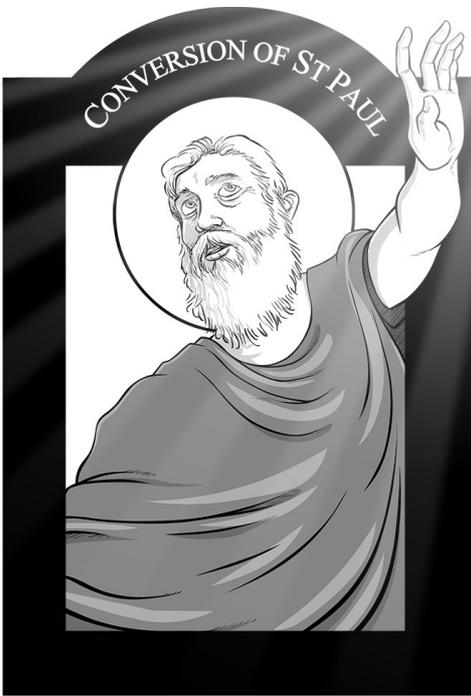
The call: 'Follow me ...', was not to an isolated individual promising to save his soul, but to two brothers and then another two brothers. Immediately, a community was being formed and its task was to bring others into that Jesus-following community.

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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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.

**B**efore his conversion, Paul the Apostle was known as Saul; a zealous pharisee who persecuted the early Christians. According to the Acts of the Apostles, Saul was travelling from Jerusalem to Damascus, when suddenly he saw a bright light and fell to the ground. He heard the voice of Jesus say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”. With the loss of his sight, Saul was led to Damascus by his travelling companions. Later, a disciple of Jesus named Ananias received a divine revelation, in which he was asked to visit Saul in order to restore his sight. Ananias did this by placing his hands on Saul’s eyes and saying, “Brother Saul, the Lord, Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

# 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

