

John 1: 35-42

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard 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 Peter. 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 John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

In today's Gospel, we hear the call of three of the disciples and their various responses. Once again, we find them ready to hear where they are being led, as John the Baptist points them in the right direction; and once again their response is eager obedience. Andrew becomes a fisher of men straight away, passing on the news about Jesus to his own brother Simon Peter and pro-actively taking him to meet Jesus for himself. In the freshness of his enthusiasm he spreads the Good News to others.

Jesus turned round and saw them following and said "What do you want"?

- As I come before God in the quietness of my being do I hear Him ask, "What do you want"? What is my response?
Today can I hear the words of Jesus "Come and see"?
What are these words inviting me to live?

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.

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.

Second Sunday

Year B

14th January 2024

Behold, the Lamb of God



In the readings for today we hear the call of God in life and events of different people. We being invited to reflect on our own call of God and our response.

In the first reading God calls to Samuel and he replies.

The psalm speaks of waiting for the Lord and answering.

The second reading us that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel reminds us of the call of the first apostles and their response.

As I ponder and reflect on each of the readings I am invited to hear the call of God in my life today.

Opening Prayer

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.

Samuel 3: 3-10, 19

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord, where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Speak Lord your servant is listening:

Having settled down for a good night's sleep Samuel is clearly not expecting to hear so directly from God. Yet, the experience is so clear to him that he assumes it must be Eli calling. It is Eli who recognises that it is a call from God and encourages the young Samuel to respond. It is the start of a wonderful lifetime of ministry for Samuel.

Samuel is open to hearing to the call of God even in the unexpected; he responds with complete trust in and obedience to the call of God in his life.

Often in life it is one thing to sense what God is calling me to do but not always easy to accept and live out my own unique calling in life.

- During lockdown with all the various restrictions am I being called to look anew at my life, attitudes and expectations? How am I responding?
- Am I being called to renew my commitment to God? How is this expressed and lived out in my daily life and situations?

Psalm 39(40): 2, 4, 7-10

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 do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart.

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20

The body is not meant for fornication: it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; do you think I can take parts of Christ's body and join them to the body of a prostitute? Never! But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit:

The letter to the Corinthians helps us to understand the implications of hearing God's call and responding to it. Paul sees our calling as setting us apart for God's service and it follows that our bodies are temples where God's Spirit lives, to be used with reverence throughout our lives. Paul reminds us - "You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for".

Do I see my body as a temple where God's Spirit lives and which is to be used with reverence throughout my life?

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!*