

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

| Headings                                   | Gospel (John 1:35-42)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 1st Reading (1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2nd Reading (1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>Context</b>                             | John's Gospel provides clear evidence that Jesus is the Son of God, so that by believing in Him, we may have eternal life.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Israel had been ruled by judges for over 200 years. Eli and Samuel were the last of those judges. Samuel was being prepared to lead the people back to God.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Paul wrote to the Corinthians to identify problems, offer solutions, and to teach believers how to live in Christ.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Key verses</b>                          | <b><i>'Behold the Lamb of God.'</i></b><br><b><i>'We have found the Messiah...the Christ.'</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b><i>'...the Lord called Samuel. And he answered: Here am I.'</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b><i>'For you are bought we with a great price. Glorify and bear God in your body.'</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Key themes/ messages</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new disciples used several names for Jesus: Lamb of God, Rabbi (Jewish teacher), Messiah, Son of God, and King of Israel.</li> <li>• By taking time to learn from Jesus' teachings, we will come to know and love Him as the Son of God.</li> <li>• Andrew and Simon (Peter) immediately accepted that Jesus was the promised Messiah, and they willingly followed Him.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although Samuel was just a boy when he served under the priest Eli, God called Samuel. God calls people based on their faith, rather than their age or position. We too must be ready to be called upon to serve God.</li> <li>• Samuel immediately agreed to serve God. Notice how Samuel's response closely links with the responses of Andrew and Simon (Peter), who showed immediate willingness to follow Jesus.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although God grants us the ability to exercise free-will in our daily lives, we should not abuse this freedom.</li> <li>• Our bodies belong to God and we should not abuse them by hurting ourselves or others. This can happen in various ways, including sexual immorality and intoxication.</li> <li>• God paid a great price for our bodies by sacrificing His only Son, Jesus Christ, who died and rose from the dead to save us from our sins. We must therefore live to serve God.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Questions/ application to our lives</b> | In the Gospel, Jesus asks the question: 'What seek you?' This question has as much importance for us today as it had for the disciples historically. Do we also recognise that Jesus is the Son of God? What are our motives for following Him?                                                                                                                                                                                 | Are we open to hearing God's message in our lives? And more importantly, how would we respond? Would we be willing to drop what we are doing to put God first?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Do we accept that our bodies belong to God? If so, how does this acceptance influence our thoughts and actions in how we use our bodies? Are there times when we fail in our obligations to use our bodies for the glory of God?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Further reading</b>                     | <i>Catechism 608</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Catechism 2578</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Catechism 364, 1004</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

