



St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE



January 21, 2024

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“May it please Christ our Lord to grant us true
humility and abnegation of will and judgment,
so that we may deserve to begin to be His
disciples.”

Saint Ignatius

Mass Timings

Saturday Vigil Mass	4.00 Pm
Sunday Mass	10.00am
Weekdays	9.00 am In Denbigh House

READINGS

First Reading **Jon 3:1-5, 10**

Second Reading **1 Cor 7:29-31**

GOSPEL **Mk 1:14-20**

Introduction: God's call to discipleship, with the response of repentance, conversion, and renewal of life expected from each of us, is the main theme of today's readings. No matter to what life, work, or ministry God calls us, He first calls us to conversion, to reform, to repentance – to the process of continually becoming new people. Those who are constantly being reformed by the Spirit will be able to follow, as true disciples, wherever God leads. All three readings today underline the absolute necessity of such repentance and ready response to God's call.

First reading, Jonah 3:1-5 explained: The first reading shows us that we should respond promptly to God's call for repentance. Our passage comes from the beginning of the second part (Jonah 3-4), where Jonah finally obeyed the Lord God by preaching of repentance to the Ninevites. The call to repentance delivered by Jonah to the people of Nineveh demanded they make a radical change in their manner of living Jesus makes the same demand of us in today's Gospel: "*Repent and believe in the Gospel.*" The Book of Jonah was written in Palestine around the 5th century BC, after the Babylonian exile. Some of the Jews were strongly nationalistic, filled with a smug sense of their superiority over all other nations. Like Jonah, they wished God would destroy the nations they perceived as His enemies. For Jonah, the Ninevites were terrible people doing terrible things.

Second Reading, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 explained: The second reading also urges us to be converted and to accept the "Good News" preached by Jesus. Thinking that the end was near and the second coming of Jesus would happen soon, Paul preferred that no one get married and that slaves not try to gain their freedom (1 Cor 7:8, 17-24). But the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* makes clear that it is precisely through engagement with the concerns of the world that Jesus' followers are to exercise their discipleship. Saint Paul had to be strict and detailed in his moral teaching to the Christians in Corinth because Corinth was a bawdy seaport with a typical seaport's set of ethics and some very bizarre philosophical ideas.

Gospel exegesis: "The time is fulfilled." The meaning of this verse hinges on the Greek word used for 'time': "The time is fulfilled..." There are two different words in Greek for 'time', and they carry very different meanings. Mark does not use the word '*chronos*' for 'time' here; '*chronos*' indicates a moment in historical time, a date on the calendar, an hour in the day...Instead, he uses the word '*kairos*', which still means 'time' but is more to do with the eternal quality inherent in any given moment. So Jesus does not announce the historical moment in time when

the kingdom of God came to earth. Instead, he is alerting us to the possibility of encountering the kingdom of God at any given moment in historical time, if we repent and believe. **Invitation to repentance:** Some Bible scholars believe that after his baptism, Jesus became a disciple of John, preaching his message of repentance and baptizing others (see Jn 3:22). Over the course of time, Jesus began to discover a new ministry for himself. According to Mark, Jesus embarked upon it after John was arrested (Mk 1:14). It is highly likely that Jesus and the four followers he summoned here were not strangers. Even if they had not personally met each other before this time, they were aware of each other's aspirations and objectives. Jesus used exactly the same words John the Baptist had used: "*Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.*" The Greek word used "*metanoeo*" means to change one's mind or direction.

We are inviting God to do what we can't do ourselves -- namely to raise the dead -- to change and recreate us. "Repent" is used in the present tense -- "Keep on repenting!" "Continually be repentant!" This means that repentance must be the ongoing life of the people in the Kingdom. **The Kingdom of God** is the theme of Jesus' preaching. This Kingdom is any society where God's will is done as it is done in Heaven. Hence, a person who does the will of God perfectly is already in the Kingdom of God. Being in the Kingdom offers us a new healing and freeing access to God, already to be tasted in Jesus' own ministry. Matthew, as a devout Jew, consistently uses the phrase

"*Kingdom of Heaven,*" while Mark, writing for Gentile converts, uses the phrase "*Kingdom of God,*" without any scruples about using God's name. We probably shouldn't interpret the "Kingdom of God" as Heaven where God rules. In telling us that the Kingdom has come near, Jesus is telling us that we can dwell in this Kingdom now, provided we repent or turn away from the idols that crowd our lives and do the will of God as it is done in Heaven, thus allowing God to reign in our lives.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS- January 13, 14

Loose cash	143.15
Gift Aid	115
Total	258.15

SECOND COLLECTION 125

ANNIVERSARIES JAN 20-26

Colette Monica Nagle, Joan Higgins, Anthony Comerford, '05.
William Fitsimons, '91:, Lucia Zak, Ethel Appleton, John Hughes,
Katherine Shakespear, 2021,

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday.
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

MASS INTENTIONS January 21

Date	Offered by	Intention
Jan 21 Sun	Jade, Grandma	For Elaine Robings on her Birthday

Let us Remember the Sick in Prayer

Patrick Ngale, Philip McGreavy, Antony Parry

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH

Account Name: Wrexham Diocesan Trust
Account Number: 08190771, Sort Code: 55-81-42

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>,
Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com
Phone: 0741-749-4277, 01352 711053,
Registered Charity No. 70042