

21 JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD AND VOCATION SUNDAY



Introduction: The sweetness of God's Word leads us to share it with those whom we encounter in this life and to proclaim the sure hope that it contains. The bitterness, in turn, often comes from our realisation of how difficult it is to live that Word consistently, or our personal experience of seeing it rejected as meaningless for life. Lord, You said, "The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more." Loving God, am I called to a Church vocation as a Priest, Sister, Brother, or Deacon? If already living my life's vocation, are you asking me to help others answer the call to Church leadership? Today, we celebrate Vocation Sunday and Word of God Sunday in the Liturgical celebration.

First Readings: Jon 3:1-5, 10
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 25: 4-5ab, 6&7bc, 8-9
Second Reading: 1Cor 7: 29-31
Gospel: Mk 1: 14-20

Prayer of the Faithful:

Celebrant: With faith and confidence, we now bring our prayers to God our Father who sent his Son to be our Good Shepherd and to lay down his life for us in love and service.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for the Church, that her members may care for each other with the spirit of the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his flock so that we might have life and have it to the full. Lord hear us. **R/**

For all who listen as the Scriptures are proclaimed, that God's word may find in them a fruitful field. Lord hear us. **R/**

On this Vocations Sunday, we pray for those whom God is calling to serve him in the priesthood and religious life. May they sense that call with greater clarity and have the courage to respond generously. Lord hear us. **R/**

We pray for those who work to promote vocations in our Diocese that they may work with our priests to create a culture of vocations in every parish community of our diocese. Lord hear us. **R/**

For all seminarians who are studying for the priesthood for our diocese. May the Lord bless them, guide them and all those preparing for priesthood. Lord hear us. **R/**

For the deceased clergy and religious who have served our parish and Diocese that the Good Shepherd will welcome them with open arms. Lord hear us. **R/**

Celebrant: Merciful Father, hear the prayers of your people who praise you for your care. Through these prayers of intercession may we never grow indifferent to the needs of your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. **R/**