



*Light and
Love in the
darkness*

CELEBRATING AT HOME 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Partners with Christ (Mk 1:14-20)

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.

CELEBRATING AT HOME

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in
this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

We have been called by God
to be the Church,
the Body of Christ in this world.

We are not a building, but a people,
gathered and grounded in
**the Word of God,
the love of Christ,
and the unity of the Holy Spirit.**

Lord Jesus,
**you call us to follow you.
You are our light and our salvation.
You bring us the Good News of love and
forgiveness.**

Scripture Reading (Mark 1:14-20)

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come,' he said, 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and Simon's brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of people.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending the nets. He called them at

once, and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Reflection - *Partners with Christ*

The Gospel today begins with the foundational cry of Jesus' ministry: The Kingdom of God has drawn near; repent and believe the Good News. The call of the disciples follows immediately. This Gospel builds on last Sunday's readings about vocation, and specifically, about how becoming a follower of Christ leads to transformation and the proclamation of the Good News.

The idea of repentance here is not about turning away from sinfulness, but about leaving a known way of life behind and turning around to face in a totally new direction as a follower of Christ.

We see that played out in the call of the fishermen - called away from everything they know and even from their family to set off in a new direction, following Christ.

The fact that Jesus called (and still calls) disciples is not about creating a flock of 'blind followers' but a people who live and work in active partnership with Christ to establish the Kingdom and preach the Good News. Becoming 'fishers of people' they draw others into the circle of God's life.

Using the proclamation at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the story of the call of the first four disciples, the Gospel invites us to think about our own vocation, our own call, as followers of Jesus and what might need to be left behind in order to enter more fully into the mystery of God's Kingdom; how we might work in partnership with the Spirit of Jesus in making the Kingdom a living reality in the world.

Note that the Kingdom does not exist apart from human beings - it is to be incarnated (enfleshed) in the new people of God, the disciples of Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

Eternal God,
may your word touch us deeply
as we strive to answer your call.

Keep us strong in love
as we face the challenges of this pandemic.

Hear our prayer
**so that our actions and our words
may heal and help, teach and touch
our homes, our workplaces and our world.**

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

Gracious God of beauty, truth and goodness,
you redeem and renew us.
Continue to live deeply within us and through us
so that your love and healing
can continue to touch and transform our world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
remain with us always.
Amen.

Sunday of the Word of God

In most of the world today is Word of God
Sunday - a day for celebrating, studying and
sharing the Word of God.

Carmelites have long understood the need to be
nourished by the Word of God we find both in
the Sacred Scriptures and in life itself.

The ancient practice of daily Lectio Divina helps
us to engage more deeply with God's word.

Lectio Divina has four main stages: reading,
reflecting, responding and resting.

We allow the Word of God to sink into us.
We reflect about the meaning of the text. We
respond by letting our hearts speak to God
and, finally, we simply rest in the Word of God.
We listen at the deepest level of our being to
God who speaks within us. As we listen, we
are gradually transformed from within. This
transformation will have a profound effect on the
way we actually live our daily lives.

You can download Lectio Divina for each day of
the month at www.ocarm.org

