



Thursday 2nd September 2021
twenty-second week in Ordinary Time Year 1

First Reading

Col 1:9-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

He has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of his Son.

Ever since the day we heard about you, we have never failed to pray for you, and what we ask God is that through perfect wisdom and spiritual understanding you should reach the fullest knowledge of his will. So you will be able to lead the kind of life which the Lord expects of you, a life acceptable to him in all its aspects; showing the results in all the good actions you do and increasing your knowledge of God. You will have in you the strength, based on his own glorious power, never to give in, but to bear anything joyfully, thanking the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:2-6. R. v.2

(R.) The Lord has made known his salvation.

1. The Lord has made known his salvation;
he shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and his love
for the house of Israel. (R.)
2. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. (R.)
3. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

Gospel

Lk 5:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

They left everything and followed him.

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

Reflection By Fr John Lovell

How willing are we to give ourselves completely over to the Lord? When the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus during the consecration at Mass, they are completely changed by the power of God's Word. We are also being called by God throughout our journey in life to allow that same Word – which is imbued with the Spirit of God – to completely change us too, so we will arrive at the gates of Heaven as true images of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever visited a museum and seen a bone or a piece of petrified wood that has been transformed into opal, a rare and beautiful gemstone? This process by which a piece of vegetation, a shell or the remains of some other ancient lifeform is transformed into something wondrous, is incredible. Yet, it takes time, just like our coming to holiness. Saint Paul in his letter to the Colossians today is urging members of that community not to slacken off in their practice of the faith but to remain committed to the path of holiness they have embarked upon to fully achieve the transformation God is offering them.

Then in our Gospel today, Jesus is showing Simon Peter why he needs to give *his* life completely over to God. Simon is an old hand at fishing and thinks his judgements are impeccable in this area. He thinks if he and his men have been out fishing all night and have caught nothing, it means there are simply no fish in this part of the lake to be caught. He is quite sure of himself on this, until Jesus urges him to pay out his nets once more. What takes place makes him swallow his thoughts and his pride. And the same goes with us. In the Kingdom of God nothing is impossible. So let us also give our lives, our judgements and our wills completely over to the miraculous power of God. This is not easy, but if we ask the Lord each day to help us do this, it will eventually come about and we will one day shine with the light and beauty of a gemstone no-one in this world can begin to imagine.