

## WEDNESDAY WORD

### A Reflection on the Scriptures for Sunday Mass

#### The Third Sunday of the Year

*The Year of Mark*

**23/24 January 2020**

My dear Parishioners, dear friends,

We are used to asking the Lord for guidance. It is an important part of our prayer even though we don't often seem to get a straightforward answer. Part of the discipline of asking, is that we simply ask and wait and pray and trust. The collect for this Sunday's Mass sums this up beautifully: 'Almighty ever living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure.....'. It's a beautiful way of saying we wait on the Lord.

We can imagine Jonah (3.1-5, 10) waiting on God when all of a sudden he heard the Lord address him. He was to go to Nineveh, a city of sin, and call the citizens to repentance and he succeeded in his task. We can't help thinking that perhaps Jonah was so effective because he first had learnt to wait on the Lord. There is a gentle sense of waiting in the psalm (25) with its peaceful response, 'Lord make me know your ways....'

All this stands in contrast to the urgency of the epistle (I Corinthians 7.29-31). Time is growing short we are told, because the world as we know it is passing away. There was much speculation about the coming of the Lord for St Paul and therefore the whole of the early Church. His fast changing world is no different from our own. Who would have imagined a January like this, last January? We hold on to the Lord and wait upon Him in times of serenity as well as times of urgency.

The gospel (Mark 1.14-20) finds Jesus very much in His stride, proclaiming the Kingdom and calling to repentance. He also calls His first collaborators, Simon, Andrew, James and John. This mystery of light, as it has become known in the additional mysteries of the rosary introduced by Pope St John Paul II, is the real inauguration of Jesus

ministry for St Mark. The Jonah reading has prepared us for it. Here, the Son of God Himself is doing the calling, and He calls to us, that we might repent and see the story of our lives framed not by our own little worlds but rather by His Kingdom.

For Prayer & Reflection:

1. Imagine the scene by Galilee. What can I see in the faces of those whom Jesus calls? Can I believe that Jesus would want to call to me? What might He say?
2. In which area of my life do I need to repent? Are there serious things which weigh on my conscience? How will I deal with them?
3. Can I 'wait on the Lord' in my prayer? Am I able to sit quietly for a little part of my day, aware of God's presence and love?

We are all aware of a fast changing situation in the midst of our third formal lockdown, but the difference is that public worship can continue in England. We exercise prudence, of course, and have the option of the live stream Masses, as well as the possibility of being physically in church.

Masses continue to be live streamed from All Saints Hersham on Saturday at 5.30pm & Sundays at 9am and from St Barnabas Molesey at 11am, and at 6pm.

Weekday Masses at Hersham on Wednesday & Friday at 9.30am

Weekday Masses at Molesey on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 9.30am, and on Saturday there is a Latin Mass at 10am.

-Both our churches have live stream.

-Go to [www.stbarnabasmolesey.org](http://www.stbarnabasmolesey.org) and you'll see two pictures with a play button.

-If you can't see the pictures then your computer will just need to refresh.

-As always, I hope your week is going well.

-Please make contact if we can be of any help in any way.

Be assured of my prayers and affectionate good wishes

*Fr Richard Biggerstaff Parish Priest of All Saints Hersham with St Barnabas Molesey*