

Theme of the Week - The Lamb of God

During the season of Advent (during week 2 and 3), we encountered John the Baptist in the Gospels where we heard of his mission, that of preparing a way for the Lord "A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight" Mark (1: 3-4). In the Gospel on Sunday we hear from John the Baptist again where he delivers a very clear and important message to two of his own disciples, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' This phrase 'The Lamb of God' signifies the one whose life is to be a sacrificial offering - the Messiah. When we go to Church, at the most sacred time of Mass, the priest will take the host and say, "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world, blessed are those called to the supper of the lamb". The message John gave his disciples is the message we still hold dear today. John the Baptist's mission was to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus and then direct them to him, The Messiah, and away from himself.

John's testimony sets in motion the attachment of the first disciples to Jesus. At the time, disciples were common for Jewish leaders/priests. However, these disciples were scholars, experts in their faith, someone who would conform to their chosen leader. In the final verse of the Gospel Jesus calls Peter by a new name indicating that Peter is taking on a completely new way of life, that he has made a life-changing choice. To be a disciple of Christ is to be completely transformed and to embark on a new direction in life. In the Gospel, the invitation from Jesus of "come and see" is made to us too —we follow, listen and remain with Jesus because we believe he is what we need.

The call to be a follower of Jesus is just the beginning though. Growing within the body of Christ, the community, is a lifelong process. Year by year our understanding of what and who we are is fed by listening to the scriptures, participating in the liturgy and prayer to our creator as a true Christian, with and through Christ. Take a moment this week to truly reflect on the 'Lamb of God'. Jesus is the one who takes away our sins - how can we ourselves make an extra effort this week to avoid sin and do good to our brothers and sisters in Christ? How can we grow in our understanding to be true disciples in Christ?

The Lamb of God

Weekly Reflections
14th January 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St John (1:35-42)

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' - which means Teacher - 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' - which means the Christ - and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' - meaning Rock.

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, in the Lamb of God you not only showed us how we are to live our lives but we also see the sacrifice you gave us for our sins. Give us courage to give our hearts to you so we too can grow within the presence of Christ

Through Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Day 1

Who is the Lamb of God? What do you think the term Lamb of God means?

Why do you think this term is given at the most important time of Mass?

Day 2

Why is being a disciple of Christ being asked to completely transform and embark on a new direction in life?

How is the invitation of 'Come and See' seen in your life?

Day 3

How in your life have you been followers of Christ (e.g. prayer, mass, acts of good will to others?)

How over the course of this year can we grow within the body of Christ in our school community?

Feast Day - St. Sebastian - 20th January



Sebastian volunteered for the Roman army in around 283. It was discovered that Sebastian has comforted some of the Christian martyrs, was himself a Christian and had actively converted others to Christianity. He was condemned by Emperor Diocletian to be shot to death by his fellow archers. However the arrows did not kill him, left for dead by his executioners, Sebastian was apparently healed by St Irene. However, Diocletian was not to be denied and had Sebastian clubbed to death. Sebastian was:

**Curious and
Active**