

January 15th 2023 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A – John 1:29 – 34

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' ³²And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

<p>➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p>	<p>➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</p>
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In this week's gospel we focus on Jesus and John the Baptist. John invites us to look at Jesus and reflects on his mission to proclaim Jesus to the world. John recognises Jesus as 'The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.' We all say these words when we go to mass and we have become so used to them they do not strike us anymore. We see that Jesus is an activist he does not only oppose sin but 'takes it away'. We often look on lambs as small, passive, meek and mild but Jesus was not like that. The lambs blood was sprinkled on door posts on the night of the Exodus. The lamb is not a violent animal. Jesus had a great sense of himself and knew that he was loved by His Father so he did not depend on the love of the people he leads for strength. Do we as bearers of the Good News in the Gospel appreciate how much we are loved by God or do we depend on the love of others to give us our strength?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for the people who affirm the message of Jesus with conviction so that all can experience the Lamb of God who takes away our sins in a gentle way.

Forgive us Lord for the times when we failed to be friendly faces and welcoming hearts especially to those migrants and refugees who have come to our country.

Lord help us all, migrants and natives by our understanding of each other to help and sustain each other in the difficulties of our daily lives. Let us learn from each other and appreciate the positive aspects in each one of us.

