

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD



On the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time we also mark the occasion of the Sunday of the Word of God, after our Holy Father, Pope Francis instituted it in his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit Illis* on 30 September 2019.

This institution of the Sunday of the Word of God is an important reminder for all of us that the Sacred Scriptures, in which is contained the very Word of God, is very important and central in our Christian faith and living.

We cannot be true Christians unless we appreciate, understand and internalise the Word of God into our hearts and live our lives according to it. Our faith is more than just attending the Mass and doing our various devotions. Unless we deepen our understanding of the Word of God, then it will be difficult for us to remain faithful to God.

Through what we hear in today's Scripture readings we can clearly see how each and every one of us as Christians are called to follow the Lord and to be His true disciples and faithful witnesses in our respective communities, much as the prophet Jonah was sent to the people of Nineveh, calling on all to repent and turn back towards God.

All of us are the parts of the Church and therefore, we share in its mission to bring forth the truth and the Word of God to all the peoples of all the nations, following in the footsteps of the Apostles that the Lord had called and chosen.

By our baptism, we too have been called and chosen for the same purpose and ministry. If we think then that we are unworthy or incapable of such deeds, then we need to realise that it is God who makes us worthy, and as long as we trust in Him and put our faith in Him, then we have nothing to worry about.

We do not need to do great and mighty things, as even the smallest and seemingly least significant of actions are what it takes for us to contribute to the cause of the Lord and His Church. Each and every one of us should therefore deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Word of God in the Scriptures, and try to know more about the teachings of the Church.

Through all these, we shall be true disciples and followers of the Lord, and by our actions and examples, we can inspire others, and through us, the Lord shall call many more to follow Him. Let us all therefore be the bearers and witnesses of God's truth and be filled with the Word of God in all of our lives, in each and every one of our actions, now and always.