



*Light and
Love in the
darkness*

CELEBRATING AT HOME 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Called to be a living Gospel (Jn 1:35-42)

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.

CELEBRATING AT HOME

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in
this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

We have been called by God
to be the Church,

the Body of Christ in this world.

We are not a building, but a people,
gathered and grounded in

the Word of God,

the love of Christ,

and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Lord Jesus, you are

our Way,

our Truth,

and our Life.

Scripture Reading (John 1:35-42)

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus went past, 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.

Reflection - *Called to be a living Gospel*

This Sunday could very well be called 'Vocation Sunday'. Both the first reading and the Gospel are stories of call and response.

The episode we read in the first reading is well described as 'Samuel's Call'. Three times he hears God calling but thinks it is Eli (a Temple priest) and goes to him. Eli finally understands that it is God calling Samuel and tells him that next time he hears the voice to say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening".

The reading concludes with the thought that God was with (dwelt with) Samuel and that Samuel spoke in God's name.

Taken together with the Gospel, it's hard to escape the thought that this Sunday is Vocation Sunday for all disciples. Just as God calls Samuel and Eli points the way, Jesus calls Andrew and the other disciple and John the Baptist points the way. Andrew responds (follows) and goes to 'see' and 'dwell with' Jesus. Next day, he calls Peter and both go to 'see' and 'dwell with' Jesus.

Andrew's meeting with Jesus transforms him into both a follower and an evangeliser. Peter's meeting with Jesus (coming to 'see' Jesus) transforms him into the 'rock', the 'foundation' and the 'shepherd' (in John's Gospel) of the flock.

Using both these readings the church returns to Ordinary Times calling us to reflect on our vocation, our call, to be disciples - to 'come and see' Jesus, to 'dwell with him' and to become evangelisers and shepherds in our own day.

Spending time in the company of Jesus (dwelling with him) we come to see who Jesus and God really are - often very different from the images we have grown up with.

Christians are called to a 'mature' faith in Jesus, a living relationship which is not dependant on rules, threats and fear, and is motivated only by love.

We learn to live in faithful relationship with Jesus. Eventually, we become the living 'voice' of Christ in our thoughts, words and actions.

It is not a passive following to which we are called. This is not about simply putting our feet in the footprints of Jesus. This is about dwelling with him, making his home ours, making our home his. It's about making room for him in our hearts and our lives, becoming the dwelling place of God and the voice of Christ – to become a living Gospel of God's love.

Prayers of Intercession

Eternal God,
You choose us to be your own people.
Open our hearts and minds to your call.

Give us the courage we need
to proclaim your love in our world.

In words and in actions,
help us to be the living Gospel for all to hear.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

Gracious God of beauty, truth and goodness,
you redeem and renew us.
Continue to live deeply within us and through us
so that your love and healing
can continue to touch and transform our world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
remain with us always.
Amen.