

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

P. O. Box 159, 671 Water Ave., Hope, BC V0X 1L0
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Father Gordon A. Cook, OMI

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 26, 2020

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday – 4:30 PM (anticipated Mass)
Sunday – 9:00 AM

Confessions

Weekdays Tuesday to Saturday – 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM
Saturday - 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Always available upon request.

Please pray for all our parishioners who are ill, at home, or in the hospital, in particular:

May Our Lord sustain, comfort and heal them through their faith.

Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, Theresa Witjes, Dolores Azevedo, David De Beer, Brian Lloyd, Brian Sparkes, Maxwell Paller, Art Pottie, Jasper Judge-Dokken

Last Sunday Offering

\$ Envelopes Number of envelopes:
\$ Loose
\$ Weekly Anticipated Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

Catholic Press Collection: February 1 and 2, 2020

February is Catholic Press Month. On February 1 and 2 there is a second collection. This is a great opportunity for parishioners to show their appreciation for the receiving the B.C. Catholic. The collection helps defray your parish costs for mailing the paper. For those who do not receive the B.C. Catholic and would like to receive it, please talk to Father Gord. to put your name on the mailing list.

Reflections on Sunday's Gospel – Matthew 4:12-23

In today's Gospel, Jesus first asks Simon and Andrew, and then He asks James and John to follow Him. Jesus is inviting these men to take immediate action. The men lay down their fishing nets and respond to Jesus' invitation to follow Him. The *calling*, the *leaving*, and the *following*, these are the three dimensions of every serious Catholic person's life.

First, there is Jesus' *call*. As Jesus walks along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, many people are there. Out of all of them, Jesus looks at two brothers, Simon and Andrew, then on two other brothers, James and John. His eyes met theirs and He says, "Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of people." Jesus is calling them for a definite purpose. Jesus is also calling each one of us for a definite purpose.

We are called in Baptism for a purpose that nobody else can accomplish in quite the same way. Each of us has a story of our life, a journey to make, a call to answer that is uniquely our own. Jesus calls each of us individually as surely as He called Simon, Andrew, James and John. And Jesus calls us to fulfill His mission we received at our Baptism.

The second moment is *leaving* their nets behind. The Apostles have to leave behind their possessions, their families and friends, and make a personal commitment to undertake what

Jesus asks of them. They will no longer have the security of their former lives. The Apostles' lives and hearts are totally transformed by answering Jesus' call to follow Him.

When we follow Jesus, we must abandon our nets. We must repent of any sinful patterns in our lives which have trapped us and brought about or endangered our spiritual death. Through repentance, we can be free to follow Jesus once again. These are far more difficult nets for us to leave behind because we are so wrapped up in them. But when we do, it opens up a whole new world of living. It's like the repentance of the Ninevites in the Book of Jonah. When they repented, they still lived in the same city, but it was a different world. They were changed within themselves.

Thirdly, the Gospel tells us that they *followed* Jesus. What does it mean to follow Our Blessed Lord? Obviously, it does not mean growing a beard, speaking Aramaic, or living in the Holy Land as Jesus did. To follow Jesus is much more than dressing like Jesus, or visiting the places where Jesus was. It is *being Jesus* to the people you meet and the culture around us.

Jesus is not telling us to abandon our jobs as the Apostles did. However, we are called to make everything else in our lives secondary to our discipleship. Each one of us is part of the Body of Christ, the Catholic Church. As such, we become part of the Church's mission of proclaiming and communicating Jesus to our family, to our community, to our world.

Jesus is calling you to follow Him. Will you say yes? Jesus will form you into one of His disciples who is capable of making a valuable difference in the world, just like the Apostles did in their hurting world. For most people, the call to discipleship comes in casual, everyday encounters with God and with one another. It calls us to an ever-deepening relationship with Our Lord. As beloved disciples, let us joyfully take up God's call to us and know that He is with us in all that we do and in all those people we meet each day.

Buying Back the Sailboat

There once was a boy who spent many hours building a model sailboat. When he put it in the local river, however, it moved away from him quickly. He chased the boat along the bank, but the strong wind and current carried the boat away. The heartbroken boy knew how hard he would have to work to build another sailboat.

Downriver, a man found the beautiful boat, took it to town, and sold it to a toy store. Later, the boy was walking through town noticed the boat in the store window. He explained what happened, but the shopkeeper didn't believe him and said that the only way to get the boat back was to buy it. The boy wanted it back so much that he did exactly that. Then he looked at the boat and said, "**Little boat, now you're twice mine: I made you and I bought you.**"

That's what God did for us, we are twice His. He created us and bought us back when we were lost, but instead of paying cash, He paid with His Blood – the Blood of the Lamb of God.

St. Clare of Assisi – (1194 – 1253)

Clare was inspired by Francis of Assisi's Gospel embrace of poverty. Clare spoke with Francis and another spiritual advisor about how she might develop a similar community for women. On Palm Sunday evening in 1212, Clare and an aunt slipped from her home and walked to a nearby chapel. There, with Francis and his friars as witnesses, Clare dedicated herself to a life of service to God.

Other women, including Clare's mother and sisters, joined Clare. They formed a women's religious order called the Sisters of the Poor Clares.

They lived in poverty, simplicity and seclusion, according to a rule Francis gave them. Although Clare never left her convent, she offered spiritual guidance in letters to popes and royalty. At her death, Clare's last words were, "*Blessed be You, O God, for having created me.*"

Reflection: St. Clare was a great contemplative, and her face would become radiant in prayer. She explains contemplation this way: "***Place your mind in the mirror of eternity; place your soul in the splendor of glory . . . transform your entire being into the image of the Divine One Himself . . .***"

Find time for contemplation, placing your mind and soul in the presence of God.