

ENCOUNTERING JESUS OURSELVES AND LEADING OTHERS TO JESUS  
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) – 17 JANUARY 2021



*L'Innocence by William Bouguereau | public domain | edited [www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com](http://www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com)*

**AT 6PM AND 7.30AM MASSES**

Last night at 6pm Mass, and earlier today at 7.30am Mass, we reflected on the forthcoming Plenary Council, remembering our Brisbane Archdiocesan history in the 1970s and 1980s with the ministries of Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, with women and men in both ministries.

We recalled the history and reasons for these important ministries.

We also looked briefly at the history of Lector and Acolyte, and the Pope's decision earlier this month for both of these ministries to be inclusive.

**[LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE PREFECT OF THE CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH REGARDING ACCESS OF WOMEN TO THE MINISTRIES OF LECTOR AND ACOLYTE]**

We looked briefly at some of the other issues for change during the 1970s and 1980s, and their influence on us today in our prayer and liturgy.

We pondered how this time of renewal reflects the invitation of Jesus in today's Gospel to come and see and stay with him.

We named at least twelve questions that parish members have raised for further consideration.

## AT 9.30AM MASS

Today's written homily for the 9.30am Mass is shorter and in [three](#) parts -

1. Praying for our world
2. Encountering Jesus ourselves
3. Inviting others to encounter Jesus

## PRAYING FOR OUR WORLD

At all weekend Masses, a *Candle of Remembrance* is lit for the two million people around the world who have died from COVID.

We pray to you, Jesus  
for those have died from COVID around the world;  
we pray for their families  
and friends and communities who mourn for them.

We pray to you, Jesus  
for Pope Francis and his possible visit to Iraq in early March,  
and the current uncertainty due to COVID in Iraq.

We pray to you, Jesus  
for the people of the United States during this month of  
January.

We pray to you, Jesus  
for the people in Sulawesi affected by the recent earthquake.

We pray to you, Jesus  
for ourselves and our communities,  
and for the gifts of patience, resilience and hope,  
during this time of the COVID Pandemic and its newer strains.

We pray to you, Jesus  
and thank you for the depth of your love that sustains us.  
Amen

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## ENCOUNTERING JESUS OURSELVES

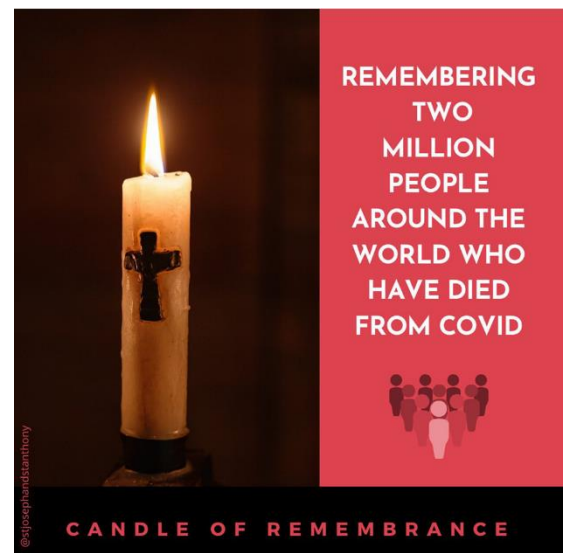
Today's Gospel JOHN 1:35-42 begins with the words,

*"The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,  
and as he watched Jesus walk by,  
he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!'"*

Already in John 1:29, John the Baptist has said:

*"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Three times at Mass, in the Communion Rite,  
we repeat this sentence, and ask Jesus for mercy and peace.



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*“Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world”*

Then the celebrant prays:

*“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.”*

Now in John 1:36, John guides the two disciples  
to encounter Jesus as Lamb of God.

The Gospel continues:

*The two disciples heard him say this,  
and they followed Jesus.  
When Jesus turned and saw them following,  
he said to them,  
**‘What are you looking for?’**  
They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), where are you staying?  
He said to them,  
**‘Come and see.’***

In encountering Jesus,  
the two disciples  
follow Jesus,  
they respond to the invitation of Jesus to come and see.

They begin to stay with Jesus.

## WE PAUSE & REFLECT

We pause and reflect ourselves:

*How have we encountered Jesus?*

*Where do we encounter Jesus?*

[pause]

*For how long have we been following Jesus?*

*How have we followed Jesus more closely recently?*

[pause]

*How do we describe our lives today,*

*as responding to the invitation of Jesus to come and see?*

[pause]

*Could we describe our lives as ‘staying with Jesus’?*

[pause]

## WE ARE INVITED

During the week we are invited

- to find time to sit with God and pray
- to ask God to help us respond to these questions
- to write down our responses to these questions.
- to read our responses and ask God to throw his light upon our responses
- to thank God and express our gratitude to God

## BRINGING SOMEONE TO JESUS

In John's Gospel, we see John the Baptist, Andrew and Philip inviting and guiding people to encounter Jesus.

*"One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed\* ). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter)."*

After Jesus names Simon as Cephas,

Jesus journeys to Galilee and invites Philip to follow him.

Philip guides Nathanael to Jesus in John 1:44-45,

*'Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also in the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." '*

We pause and thank God for the people in our lives who have led us to Jesus.

We pause and pray for the people we are gently leading to Jesus.

Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011721.cfm>