



# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF *St Thomas More* and *St Joseph the Worker*



*working in partnership with the Catholic Chaplaincy of Warwick University*

## St Thomas More

112 Knoll Drive  
Stivichall  
COVENTRY  
CV3 5DE

stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk

## Fr Simon J Baker

Parish Priest  
024 7641 1900

## Deacon Leo Poole

07984 071124 dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk

## Deacon David Palmer

07831 726731 dcn.david.palmer@rcaob.org.uk

## Deacon Pat Jeary *Retired*

## St Joseph the Worker

1 De Montfort Way  
Cannon Park  
COVENTRY  
CV4 7DU

stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk

*both parishes are part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg Charity No 234216*

9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week: 1  
Weekday Cycle: Year 1  
Sunday Year: C

<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>4.15pm</b>	STM	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</b>	
		<b>5.00pm</b>	STM	<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Gabrielle Haughey (RIP)</b>
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>9.00am</b>	STM	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Mgr Tom Gavin (Anniv)</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	SJW	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Pauline Simons (Ints)</b>
		<b>12.45pm</b>	SJW	<b>Mass (University)</b>	<b>Pro Populo</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	St Scholastica			No Mass	
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady of Lourdes	10.00am	SJW	<b>Mass</b>	Sr O'Brien (Ints)
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	11.00am	STM	<b>Mass 'n' Mingle</b>	Doreen and Tony Dean (Anniv)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	10.00am	STM	<b>Mass (School)</b>	Iris Jackson (Mem Mass)
		7.00pm	STM	<b>Pontifical Mass</b> with the Sacrament of Confirmation	
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ss Cyril and Methodius	10.00am	STM	<b>Mass</b>	Clare Hastings (Ints)
				followed by <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady	10.30am	SJW	<b>Mass</b> with Anointing of the Sick	Sick and Housebound (Ints)
	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>4.15pm</b>	STM	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</b>	
		<b>5.00pm</b>	STM	<b>Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>9.00am</b>	STM	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Matthew and Serena O'Reilly (Ints)</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	SJW	<b>Mass</b>	<b>Martha Connolly (RIP)</b>
		<b>12.45pm</b>	SJW	<b>Mass (University)</b>	<b>Pro Populo</b>

*Welcome to Mass today. We extend a special welcome to anybody joining us for the first time.*

*Please introduce yourself, and if you are able, stay for refreshments after the Mass.*

The readings at Mass this week present us with rich themes that call us to reflect deeply on our faith. Through the stories of Isaiah, Paul, and Peter, we explore God's holiness, human unworthiness, witnessing to faith, and the call to follow Jesus. These reflections aim to help us understand these themes and how they apply to our lives.

In the Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to follow Him. They were fishermen, likely illiterate and not scholars of Scripture. Yet, Jesus saw potential in them. He calls ordinary people to be His disciples, showing that anyone willing to follow Him can be used for His purposes. The fishermen's response is immediate. They leave everything and follow Jesus. This act of leaving behind their livelihood and security demonstrates their trust and commitment. It teaches us that following Jesus often requires sacrifice and a willingness to let go of our own plans.

Jesus' choice of these unlikely followers highlights that He values a willing heart over qualifications. He does not look for the most educated or the most skilled, but for those ready to give themselves fully to Him. This gives hope to all of us, as it shows that we don't need to be perfect to be used by God. Our call to follow Jesus is similar. We might feel unqualified or unworthy, but Jesus invites us to trust Him and follow Him wholeheartedly. By answering this call, we embark on a journey of faith, trusting that Jesus will guide and equip us. Like the fishermen, we are called to leave behind anything that hinders our commitment and follow Jesus with our whole heart.

Let us pray. Lord, help us recognise Your holiness and our need for Your grace. Strengthen us to witness our faith with courage and sincerity. Guide us to follow You wholeheartedly, leaving behind anything that holds us back. Amen.

**STM and SJW Website:** [stmcov.org/wp/](http://stmcov.org/wp/)

**Facebook:** Catholic Parishes of St Thomas More and St Joseph the Worker

**Livestream webcam:** <https://www.youtube.com/@stmandsjtw-cov>

**Coventry Catholic Deanery:** [www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk](http://www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk)

### OFFERTORIES AND COLLECTIONS

**STM:** £828.70 | **SJW:** £323.00

**STM Crib:** £434.20 | **SJW Crib:** £285.00

*Thank you for your continued generosity*

**IF YOU ARE A VISITOR** to our Masses and not a Catholic, or a Catholic unable to receive, you are very welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. As you approach, please have your arm crossed over your chest, so that the minister knows to give a blessing. If you require a celiac host, please let us know before Mass.

**ORDER OF MASS CARDS:** If you require a card with the Order of Mass text, please ask one of the welcomers for a copy. The readings for Sunday Mass can be found on the back of this newsletter. Please do take them home with you for private prayer and reflection.

**WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF Deacon Pat Flanagan, Deacon Paul Hender, Martha Grimes, Denis Twigg and Richard Healey** together with all who have died recently. We pray for them and their families at this time. May they rest in peace.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND UNWELL:** Angie Browne, Judith Cuningham, Peter Cunningham, Frank Cunningham, Elaine Fossett, Margaret Eason, Madge Ward, Heather Walton, Jay Veeman, Pat Farr, Phil Sands, Margaret Kelly, Joanna MacKinnon, Hilary Hanson, Debbie Colby, Monika Tokarska-Hosoi, Joan Theaker, Veronica Hammond, Alice Rowland, John Walker, Pauline Cullinane, Beatrice Upham, Peter Carvell, Sheila Jenkins, Lillian Chapman, Irena Bienek, Josie McElroy, Georgina Brannigan-Smith, Ann Kenny, Rose Warburton, Keelin Treharne, David O'Grady, Joan O'Leary, Thomas Weatherstone and Clare Oliver.

**FEBRUARY** is the month dedicated to the Holy Family. The special devotion which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th century. It started almost simultaneously in Canada and France: the Association of the Holy Family was founded in Montreal in 1663, and by the Daughters of the Holy Family in Paris in 1674. Paul VI, in 1964 said, 'the home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus—the school of the Gospel. First, then, a lesson of silence. May esteem for silence, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us...a lesson on family life. May Nazareth teach us what family life is, its communion of love, its austere and simple beauty, and its sacred and inviolable character...A lesson of work. Nazareth, home of the Carpenter's Son, in you I would choose to understand and proclaim the severe and redeeming law of human work.'

**CHURCH FLOWERS SECOND COLLECTION** after all Masses this week. Our thanks to our dedicated team of 'Holy Petals' at both STM and SJW, who week by week ensure that our altars and churches are adorned with beautiful flowers and displays. Thank you for your generosity.

**SVP BRANCH:** At all Masses there will be an appeal to see if anyone would be interested in starting a new SVP branch for STM and SJW. The essence of the SVP is person-to-person contact and spending time with people; giving them a sense of belonging to a wider community.

**TUESDAY** is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick and the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The 10.00am Mass will conclude with the praying of the Litany of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Holy Rosary for the sick and housebound of our parishes.

**LECTIO DIVINA GROUP** will begin on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00pm in the MRR and will become part of our weekly schedule. This time of reflection will alternate between in person and online, so will hopefully be accessible to different people. Lectio Divina is the ancient practice of slow, conscious reading of a biblical or sacred text with contemplation and silent prayer. Lectio Divina helps to promote communication with God and a deeper knowledge of Christ, in our lives today.

**CONFIRMATION MASS** will take place on Thursday evening, during which several children from the parish and school will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is an important moment for them in their lives and we pray with them and for them as they make this step. We look forward to welcoming Archbishop Bernard Longley to this Mass.

**MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK** will take place at SJW on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am. During the Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be offered for those in need of healing. We also remember in our prayers, those who are sick but cannot attend the Mass. If you are scheduled for surgery or to go into hospital, please do come along to the Mass. The Mass will be followed by tea and coffee in the Parish Hall.

**JUBILEE VIDEO SERIES:** In the first episode of a new video series exploring the Jubilee themes, Fr Rob Taylerson (Spiritual Director at Oscott College) focuses on Care for Creation. Hear how he 'wanted to help feed the world' and advises 'our lives must be simplified'. The video series can be accessed via the Birmingham Archdiocese website.

**YEAR OF JUBILEE:** Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. It is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The concept of Jubilee or 'Holy Year' was used to declare special years for forgiveness and reconciliation. Intended as a time of conversion and emphasis on God's mercy and forgiveness of sins, Jubilees begin with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas in Rome are destination points for pilgrims, who pass through seeking special graces. The Jubilee Year began on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to the Feast of Epiphany 2026.

**JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKS** are available at the back of church and contain numerous articles on being a Jubilee pilgrim, about the Jubilee Icon, reflections, prayers and hymns. Please do take a copy with you.

**ST JOSEPH'S PEWS** have now been joined together and will be fixed to the floor in the coming week. Our thanks to Darren and his team for their hard work.

**SUNDAY MISSALS** can be ordered through the Piety Stall priced at £20 per copy. We are still waiting details regarding the Daily Missals.

**PALM CROSSES:** If you have any old palm crosses at home, please place them in the baskets at the back of church. These can then be burnt ready for use on Ash Wednesday.

**'LITTLE CHURCH'** at STM is the Liturgy of the Word with children, offering them the opportunity to listen and respond to the Sunday Gospel at an age-appropriate level during the 9.00am Mass. The Children and a Prayer Leader are called forward at the beginning of Mass and process to their sacred space where the scriptures are explored through reflection, discussion, song and other appropriate activities. An adult may accompany a very young child until they are settled. All return to Mass at the Procession of Gifts for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**KINGDOM OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** on Mondays from 7.00pm – 8.45pm in the MRR. All are welcome to come along for a time of prayer, praise, reflection and refreshments.

**PARISH CHARITY:** As part of our outreach and in order to be able to support the many Catholic Charitable Organisations, it has been suggested that at the start of Lent each year, both STM and SJW adopt a named and suitable charity for the coming year. This would mean that the monies taken at refreshments after our Saturday and Sunday Masses, together with a voluntary collection once a year, would be donated to their work and outreach. As Lent is the season of almsgiving, it seems an appropriate time to launch this. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

**LOURDES 2025** will take place from Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025 under the title of 'with Mary, Pilgrims of Hope.' In this Year of Jubilee, Lourdes has been designated as a particular place of pilgrimage, so if you haven't been, this Year of Jubilee might be the ideal time to go. If anyone would like to join the parish group on the Pilgrimage the group will be staying at the Hotel Padoue. You can book your place and get more information by calling the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office on 0121 230 6288 or emailing [admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk).

**CRIB OFFERINGS** this year were collected for the work of Friends of the Holy Land. Thanks to your generosity a total of £719.20 was collected between the two parishes. The Friends of the Holy Land is a non-political Christian Charity, whose mission is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan - the part of the world that Christians call the Holy Land. If you would like more information regarding the FHL, you can visit their website at [friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

**INDUCTION INVITATION:** The Chaplaincy Team at Warwick University have extended an invitation for all parishioners to the Service of Welcome and Induction of Fr Simon as the new Catholic Chaplain. This will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 4.30pm in the Chaplaincy. If any parishioners would like to attend, could they please let Fr Simon know by Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**SJW EASTER RAFFLE:** Although this seems a long way off, it would be good to start collecting a few suitable prizes. If you have any 'unwanted' Christmas presents that might be used as prizes, please do let Fr Simon know.

**THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARRIAGE:** Anyone who is due to celebrate a significant wedding anniversary, is engaged to be married this year or who would simply like to give thanks to God for their marriage is invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at St Chad's Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Richard Walker. Please email [marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk) for more information.

**PILGRIMAGES TO MEDJUGORE** from 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October. For more information, please see the posters at the back of church or contact Deacon Keith Millage at Christ the King, Coventry.

**BRING AND SHARE MEAL** on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at SJW. Shrove Tuesday comes from an old English word meaning 'to confess,' since it was customary to go to confession before the beginning of Lent. It was also traditional to use up meats, fats, and dairy products before entering the Lenten period of fasting. Our bring and share meal will be an ideal time to feast before the fast! More details to follow.

**BIBLE ALIVE** is a great way to get to know the Scriptures. Each day there is a reflection which is both informative and encouraging. If you would be interested in having a regular subscription to Bible Alive, please contact Clive Robinson on 024 7650 1579.

**MEN'S ROSARY** in Birmingham City Centre on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 12noon by Chamberlain Square by the fountain. Join a growing movement of men who peacefully go into the heart of Birmingham and kneel down in front of a statue of Our Lady to pray for our city, nation, and for men to live out their God given vocation as protector, defender and servant. For more information, please contact Ben on 07885505116

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** will meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at St Osburg's Church. The group is aimed at adults aged between 18 and 35 years old, with a purpose to create a community of young people, enabling them to learn about the Catholic Church, strengthen their faith and friendship, as well as organise and participate in various deanery-level youth activities. For more information, please contact Fr Benedict Skipper at Christ the King or email [fr.benedict.skipper@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.benedict.skipper@rcaob.org.uk)

**CHEYLESMORE FOODHUB:** It is now possible to support the work of the Foodhub through financial donations. It allows for more flexibility for the Trust to purchase foods. The required information is Cheylesmore Food Hub CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code: 40-52-40 and the Account no: 00034145.

**UNIVERSITY MASSES** are held on a Sunday at 12.45pm in St Joseph the Worker and on campus at 12.30pm on a Thursday during term time.

**OUR JOINT FACEBOOK PAGE** can be found by searching for 'Catholic Parishes of St Thomas More and St Joseph the Worker.' If you are a user of Facebook and haven't already, please do 'like' our page and share with family and friends.

**MASS 'N' MINGLE** takes place every Wednesday at 11.00am in STM. This is a lovely opportunity for people to come together over a drink and some homemade cakes. If you haven't been, please do consider coming along.

**KNITTED BABY CARDIGANS** are required by the University Hospital for premature babies. If you, or any friends can knit any, they can be given in at church, so that the Knights of St Columba will pass them to the Coventry Clothing Charity.

**SINGING FOR FUN** will take place in the Parish Hall at SJW on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February. If you would like to learn some of the music that will be sung at the 11.00am Mass, please do come along.

**WORD OF GOD:** 'When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel.' (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no.29)

**UNIVERSALIS APP** is available to download on your phone. The app includes readings for daily Mass, Morning and Evening Prayer, private meditations and much more. A useful app to have for private devotion!

**SEVEN DAY CANDLES** can be sponsored in both STM and SJW for a donation of £5 per candle. These are lit on a Sunday and burn for the following week. At STM candles are available for Our Lady, St Joseph, Sacred Heart and St Thomas More and at SJW they are available for Our Lady, Sacred Heart, St Anthony, and St Joseph. Please note only one intention per candle can be booked. To sponsor a candle for a particular intention, please bring your donation to the sacristy.

**MASS INTENTIONS** The Mass is the greatest prayer we can offer as Catholics since it is the 'source and summit' of the Christian Life. An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person or as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. Mass offering envelopes are available at the back of both churches. Please fill in the required information and hand it to Fr Simon or push through the Presbytery letterbox. The Mass will then be offered, and you'll see the details on the front page of this sheet. We ask that Masses be booked three months in advance of your re-quired date. Please remember that preferred dates cannot be guaranteed—someone else might have asked for a particular day before you, but the nearest date will be offered.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** is a wonderful opportunity for us to be still and quiet in the presence of the Lord. In both STM and SJW there is a weekly opportunity for this, so please do consider coming along. St Alphonsus Liguori once wrote, 'know also that you will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Friday morning after the 10.00am Mass and on Saturday evening from 4.15pm – 4.45pm at STM and on a Saturday morning after 10.00am Mass at SJW.

**HOUSE VISITS** to the sick and housebound are an important part of the life of the church. Those who would like a visit, are asked to contact Fr Simon or Deacons Leo and David. A visit can be arranged by themselves or by the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

**LENT READING AND REFLECTION GROUP** will be starting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February and will continue on Thursday evenings throughout Lent. This year, we shall be looking at the Encyclical Letter by Pope Francis entitled *Dilexit Nos*. Whilst the world is in the midst of significant global crises – grappling with conflicts, deep social and economic inequalities, unchecked consumerism, and technologies that pose risks to human dignity. In this encyclical, Pope Francis seeks to inspire a shift in perspective, encouraging humanity to reconnect with what truly matters – the heart. Cardinal Nicholas said, 'the invitation of this letter is clear: let anyone who is broken-hearted, or feeling empty of heart, or yearning for love, or filled with the joy of a loving heart, come and read this Letter. It is, quite simply, addressed to us all.' Like last year, the group will alternate between STM and SJW. More details to follow.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest. Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL:** Anyone going into hospital, needs to be sure to tell the ward staff they are a Catholic and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain. Please also notify the Parish Clergy, so a visit, either by them or the Chaplain can be arranged.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION COURSES** are held on the first Saturday of every month in the MRR. To book a place, families are asked to contact Deacon Leo by emailing [dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk)

**LGBTQ+ CATHOLIC MEETING** will not take place in February due to the half term break. Details of the March meeting will be available in the coming weeks. For more information, please email Deacon Leo at [dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk)

**PARISH OFFICE** (for both STM and SJW) is open on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 4.00pm. If you have any general enquiries, please do try and call during these hours.

**GIFT AID GIVING:** If you are a UK Taxpayer and would like to increase you weekly giving, at no extra cost to yourself, please consider Gift Aiding your donation. Through this scheme we are able to claim 25p on every £1 donated. More information available from Tony Curristan at STM and June Palmer at SJW.

**ONLINE GIVING:** If you were unable to give via the Offertory Collection at Sunday Mass, you can give online to either parish by scanning this QR code and following the instructions on the website.



**SAFEGUARDING:** The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Claire Rutter and Amanda Kelly at STM and Henry Whitney at SJW. They can be contacted using the emails below or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or email [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

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#### Parish Administrator and Room Bookings

Amanda Kelly [admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk)

#### Safeguarding Representatives

Claire Rutter and Amanda Kelly (STM) [sg.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk)

Henry Whitney (SJW) [sg.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk)

#### Giving and Gift Aid

Tony Curristan (STM) [ga.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ga.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk)

June Palmer (SJW) [ga.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ga.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk)

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### READINGS FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!' And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.' And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 138(137):1-2a, 2bc, 3, 4-5, 7c-8. R/1c

*R:* In the presence of the angels I praise you, O Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
In the presence of the angels I praise you.  
I bow down towards your holy Temple. *R*

I give thanks to your name  
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.  
For you have exalted over all  
your name and your promise.  
On the day I called, you answered me;  
you increased the strength of my soul. *R*

All earth's kings shall thank you, O Lord,  
when they hear the words of your mouth.  
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,  
'How great is the glory of the Lord!' *R*

With your right hand you save me;  
the Lord will accomplish this for me.  
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;  
discard not the work of your hands. *R*

#### SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, unworthy to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Follow me, says the Lord,  
and I will make you fishers of men.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

#### GOSPEL

Luke 5:1-11

At that time: The crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear the word of God. He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' And Simon answered, 'Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.' And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.' For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.' And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

'When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel.' (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no.29)