



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 JANUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 49: 3, 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel,

in whom I shall be glorified';

I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken,

he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 39: 2, 4, 7-10. R. vv. 8, 9

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord / and he stooped down to me; / he heard my cry. / He put a new song into my mouth, / praise of our God. **R.**

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, / but an open ear. / You do not ask for holocaust and victim. / Instead, here am I. **R.**

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written / that I should do your will. / My God, I delight in your law / in the depth of my heart. **R.**

4. Your justice I have proclaimed / in the great assembly. / My lips I have not sealed; / you know it, O Lord. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm
or on request prior to Sunday mass
Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

PARISH NOTICES

Feast days for the week

Mon 19 St Wulstan, St Faolan, St Henry of Uppsala
Tue 20 Pope St Fabian., St Sebastian
Wed 21 St Agnes
Thu 22 St Vincent, St Publius
Fri 23 St Marianne Cope
Sat 24 St Francis de Sales



TOGETHER in CHRIST!



Merredin Churches Fraternal

Combined Services 2025-2026

Sunday 18th January
Sunday 25th January

Church of Christ
All Saints Anglican

10.00am
TBC

Thank You

Thank you for your contributions and presence and welcoming friendship for last Sunday as we welcomed the Christian brothers and sisters to our Eucharistic celebration.

SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD



St Mary's Catholic Church and
St Mary's School
will be combining to celebrate our
Centenary
Sunday 2 August 2026
10.00 a.m. Mass
12.00 Lunch
More details to come



St Rose Philippine Duchesne (Cont)

Potawatomi was opened at Sugar Creek, Kansas. Though many thought Philippine was too sick to go, the Jesuit head of the mission insisted: "She must come; she may not be able to do much work, but she will assure success to the mission by praying for us. Her very presence will draw down all manner of heavenly favors on the work".

She was with the Potawatomi but a year; however, her pioneer courage did not weaken, and her long hours of contemplation impelled the Indians to name her, Quah-kah-ka-num-ad, "Woman-Who-Prays-Always". But Philippine's health deteriorated. In July 1842, she returned to St. Charles, although her heart never lost its desire for the missions: "I feel the same longing for the Rocky Mountain missions and any others like them, that I experienced in France when I first begged to come to America...".

Philippine died at St. Charles, Missouri, November 18, 1852 at the age of 83. Canonised in 1988. Patron saint of those who persevere amid adversity.

Please Note: Planned Giving Direct Debit - CDF/NAB Parish Account details for anyone wanting to support the parish through Direct Debit are as follows;

1st Collection (Fr Philip) – BSB 086 006 Acc. 73115 8848 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth
2nd Collection Merredin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 84040 9343 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Mary's Parish
2nd Collection Kellerberrin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 75189 3225 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Joseph's Parish

(Please include your name on direct debit deposits—eg 2nd Coll-Smith) Thank you for your generosity and support.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 1: 29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Jn 1: 14, 12

Breaking Open the Word

THE LAMB OF GOD

The historical memory between John the Baptist and Jesus identified in last Sunday's Gospel from Matthew continues in today's Gospel from John. Themes from last week continue: John the Baptist declares Jesus' pre-existence (1:30), a central theological motif in the Gospel, as God's chosen one, and as the bearer of God's Spirit (1:33). The Baptist also publicly attests to Jesus' holiness using Jewish expressions drawn out of the Passover and Exodus story. Jesus is called 'the lamb of God' (1:29). This evokes the memory of the Passover lamb. This was the lamb sacrificed in the Exodus event (Exodus 12:1-13) whose blood daubed the lintels of the doors identifying its Jewish residents as God's protected ones as the Angel of Death passed over them.

In John's Gospel, Jesus' blood will also become the life-giving and liberating agent that creates the new community formed around the Mother of Jesus and the Beloved Disciple at Jesus' death (19:26-35). At the beginning of this Gospel and in today's reading, John the Baptist becomes the Gospel's witness to the holy and elevated status of Jesus as God's representative who can 'take away the sin of the world' (1:29). In other words and again drawing on a Jewish atonement ritual performed on one of the holiest days in the Jewish Calendar, *Yom Kippur* (literally, 'the Day of Atonement'), Jesus becomes the scapegoat for people's sins to release them from the burdens they carry and bring them to life and freedom—another theme of John's Gospel. All these insights associated with today's Gospel are key for us: we look to one who can represent us before God, release us of sins that weigh us down, and offer us life and spiritual agency.

Fr Michael Trainor