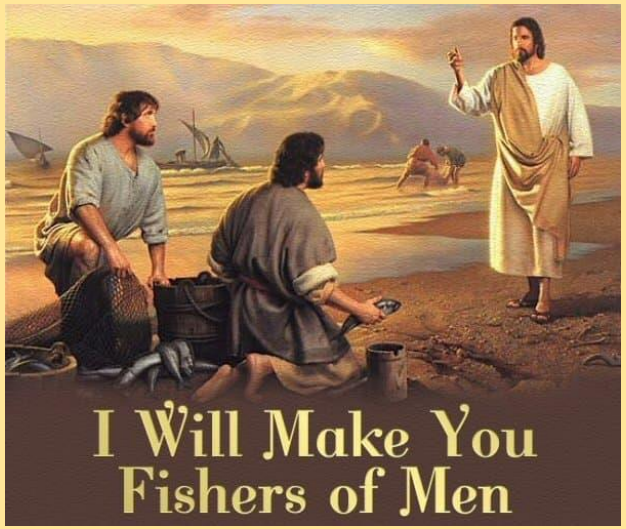
Prayer & Reflection



Week beginning: **Monday 26th January**

Theme = Holocaust Memorial

Catholic Social Teaching – Life and Dignity of the Human Person. Solidarity

Gospel = Third Sunday Ordinary Time

The Wednesday Word

You are invited to 10 minutes of prayer and reflection every Wednesday.

Join Jonathan Roumie (Jesus- The Chosen), Jeff Cavins, Mark Wahlberg, Chris Pratt and Gwen Stefani as we reflect on the Gospel on the day.

8am

12:40pm (First lunch)

1:30pm (Second lunch)

Venue- School Chapel.

CONFIRMATION 2026

<u>The Parish of St John The Evangelist, Gravesend.</u>

The preparation programme for young people in Years 8-13 at school or 13 years of age by 1 September 2026, who are interested in being confirmed in 2026 **begins at the end of January 2026.**

Please see Susanne for more details.

Be the light in the darkness

This week we will have our school assembly on the theme of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Please remember the victims of the Holocaust this week in your morning prayers.

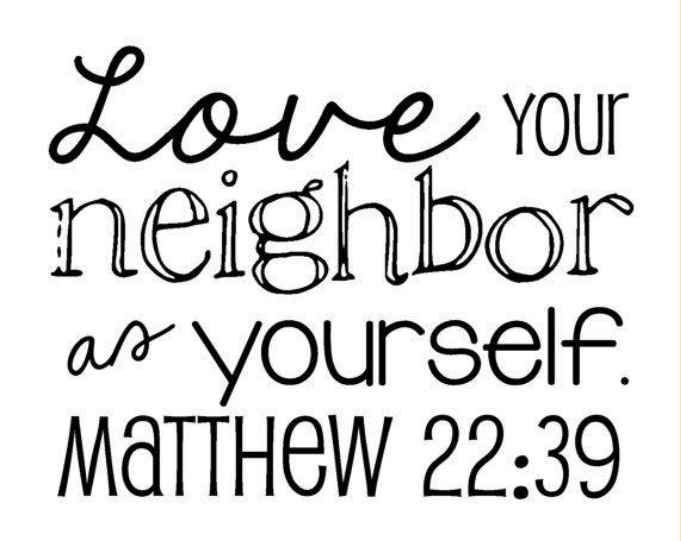
There are links to Catholic Social Teaching themes and a prayer for this on the next slides.

Catholic Social Teaching

A key theme in Catholic Social Teaching is Solidarity – that we are ONE with our brothers and sisters across the world regardless of race, gender or ethnicity.
Jesus told us that the greatest commandment is to love thy neighbour, which means that we should aim to live in our world with justice and peace.

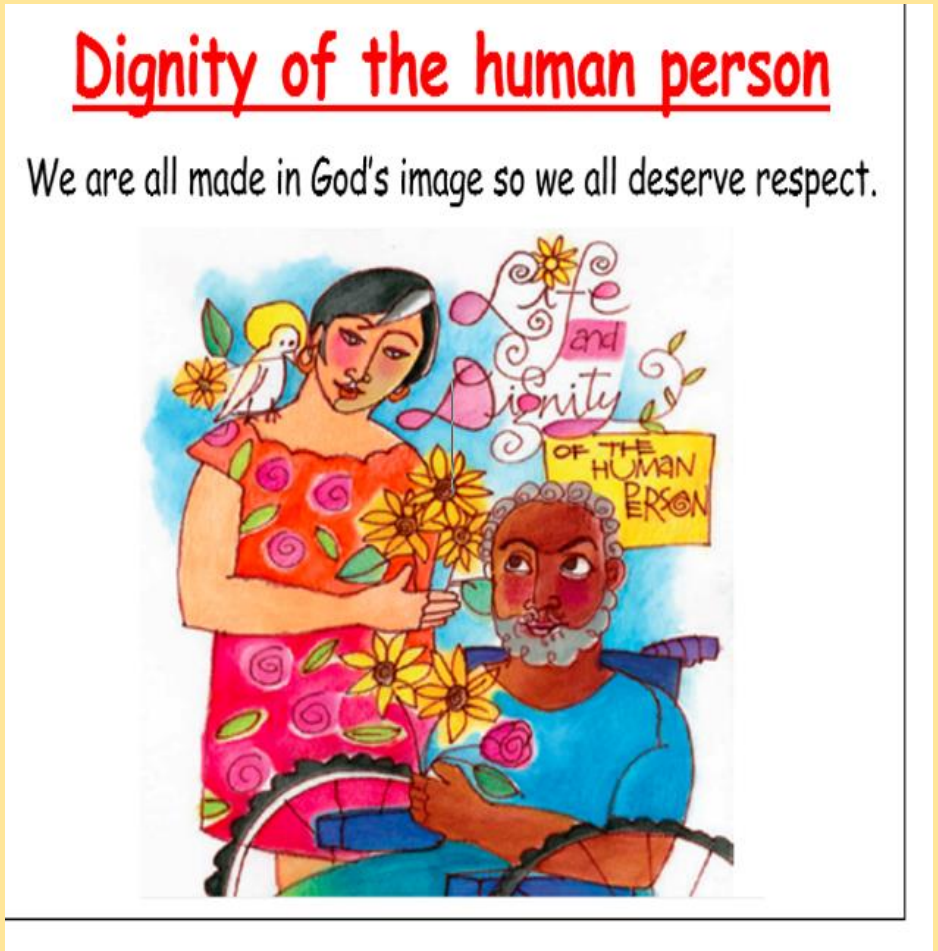
SOLIDARITY

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Blessed Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice."[1] The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.



Catholic Social Teaching

Another key theme in Catholic Social Teaching is the importance of the life and dignity of the human person. ALL human life is sacred.
God made us all in his image, and so well all deserve RESPECT.



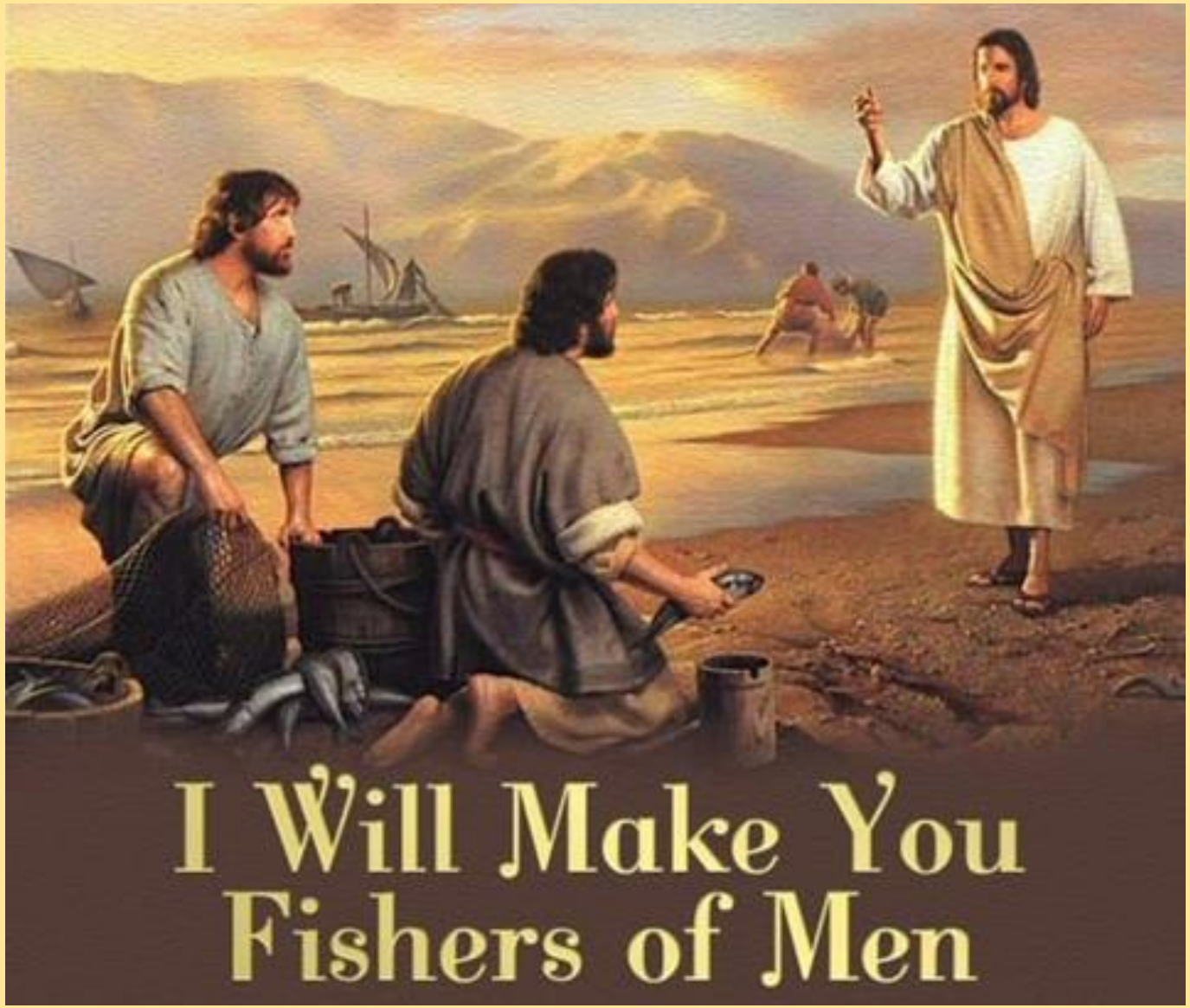
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL Prayer

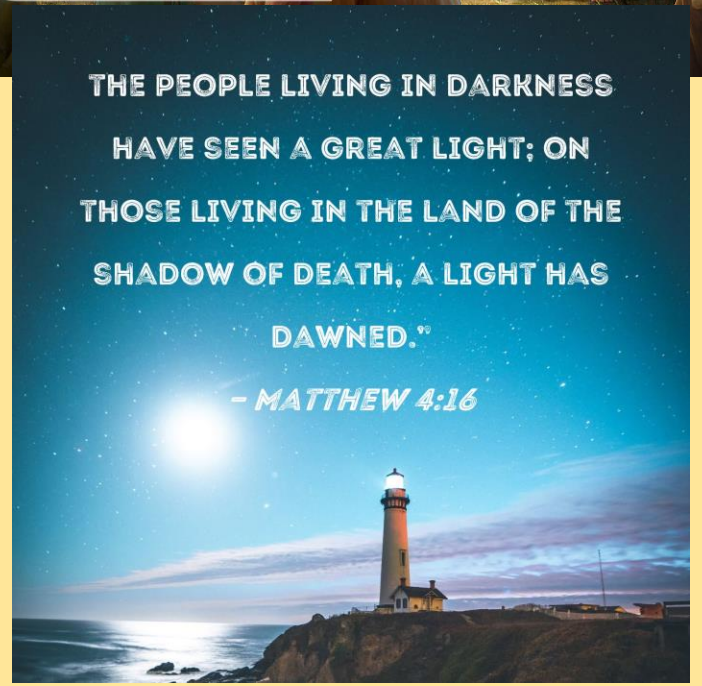
Eternal God, you hold all of our days in your hands.
On this day, we come before you to remember the victims of the Holocaust.
We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of other genocides.
May our minds be clear and attentive to their memory and our hearts be moved to bear witness to their lives.
Today, help us to remember and recognise the sanctity of each human life, that all people are made in Your image.
One day, we pray that genocide and hatred will be no more, and that love will triumph over evil.
In our prayers and in our actions, help us to show this love in the world today.
Amen.

St John the Apostle & Evangelist, pray for us. Amen

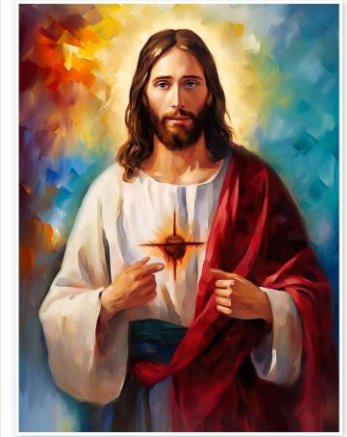
inspirati a christo
Go Forth Today and Be Inspired by Christ

Sunday Gospel = Third Sunday Ordinary Time



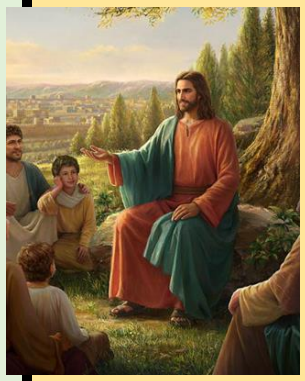


THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL READING - Third Sunday Ordinary



A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.
He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.
From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say**, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**



[As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.
He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.
He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

Reader = the Gospel of the Lord.
RESPONSE = Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Explanation of this week's Gospel reading

In this gospel reading, after John the Baptist had been arrested Jesus went to Galilee, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy by bringing light to a darkened region. He began preaching repentance and assembled his first disciples, starting his ministry of teaching, proclaiming, and healing.
There are THREE key messages in this gospel:

1. **Light in darkness**: Isaiah speaks of people walking in darkness who see a great light. Jesus brings this light by preaching and healing in Galilee.
2. **Repent and believe**: Jesus begins His preaching with a call to repentance. He invites people to change their ways and trust in God.
3. **Spreading the good news**: Jesus goes from town to town preaching and healing. He shows that the message of God's kingdom is for everyone.

REFLECTION TASK

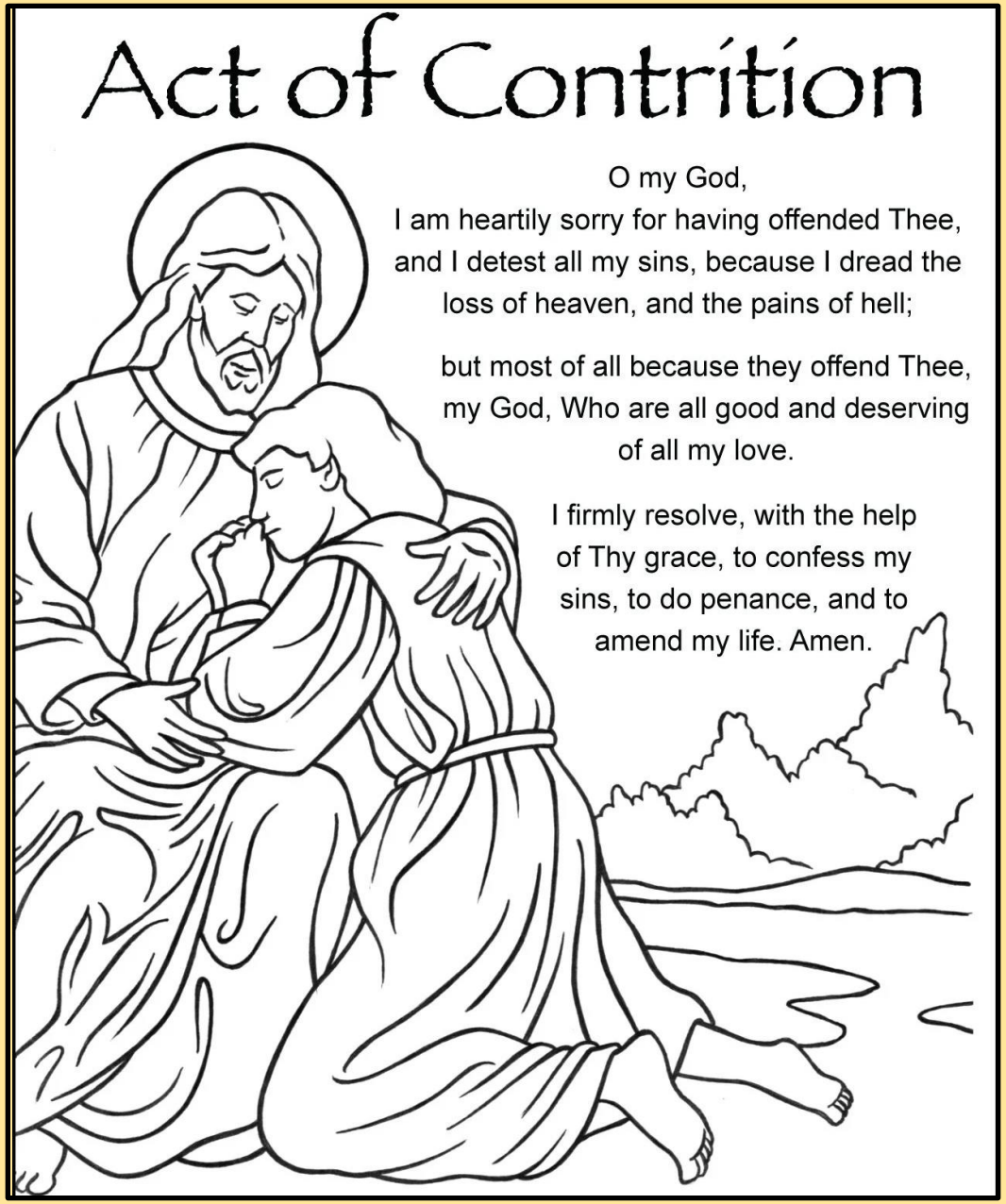
1. In this passage, Matthew quotes Isaiah to describe Jesus as a "great light" dawning on people in darkness. Think about a modern "darkness" (e.g., social injustice, mental health struggles, or global conflict).

Describe what a "light" in that situation would actually look like in practice.

2. Jesus' core message is that we are called to repentance. Are you willing to say sorry to God for your sins? How can your actions today show that you are able to follow this call to repent – to show that you are Inspired by Christ – this is our school mission to follow every day!

WORD OF THE WEEK

PRAYER =the Act of Contrition (to tell God that we are sorry for our sins)



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