



# vocations MINISTRY

## VOCATION MATTERS SUNDAY REFLECTIONS & PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME  
(FEB 2<sup>ND</sup> 2014 – FEB 23<sup>RD</sup> 2014)**

If you have not used these reflections before, the following initial bulletin entry may be useful.

### **Vocation Matters:**

Every week, a brief reflection will be inserted into the bulletin to help all our parishioners, and particularly our younger members, consider more deeply their vocation. A themed prayer has also been written which can be included in the prayers of the faithful.

Written by Fr Matt Anscombe, our diocesan Vocations Director, these reflections and prayers will help us to be constantly reminded that God chooses each one of us in Christ, and that we are called to discover his plan for ourselves in the midst of the Church.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> February – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** ***“My eyes have seen the salvation”***

The American patriotic song ‘The Battle Hymn of the Republic’, starts with the famous line “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord”, before moving in to its chorus of ‘Glory, Glory, Hallelujahs’. Have our eyes really seen that glory? To follow Christ closely, we all need to confess, as Simeon did, that in Jesus is salvation. In Him there is liberation from all enslavements, which hold us back from living out God’s will in our lives. Acknowledging this day in and day out, we will be able to discern more deeply how God is calling us to serve, so that His truth keeps marching on.

### **Prayer of the Faithful:**

We pray for an increase in our awareness of the glory of the Risen Jesus in our lives, so that His truth will lead us to name, cherish and live out our vocation.

**9<sup>th</sup> February – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
***“A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden”***

The southwest is well known for its Bronze Age hilltop forts. As defensive settlements they couldn't be hidden but instead they made a statement, "Get off my land!" As Christians, we are called to stand out like a city on a hilltop. Our primary aim is not defence though. Our hilltop city is supposed to attract others so that they will encounter the living God and feel safe and at peace within its streets. After all, whatever our vocation is, the deepest reason for being given this, is so that we might reflect Christ's light to the world. If we're all serious about living out our vocation then we will be a truly sacred city for all to see.

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

Lord God, you call us to shine forth your truth in our world. Take away any fear we may have so that we may pursue your call in our lives with great joy.

**16<sup>th</sup> January – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
***“They are happy who follow God's law”***

Donkeys have always been seen as rather daft animals! In fact, the phrase "the law is an ass", popularised by Charles Dickens, comes from this perceived 'asinine' nature of donkeys. Any application of the law that is contrary to common sense is surely daft! God's law, however, when taken to heart through the Gospel of Christ, is pure wisdom. It may be counter-intuitive at times, and the call to love others through the living out of our vocation, may challenge us out of our comfort zones. However, God's law brings freedom and so our following Him will surely bring happiness. Perhaps, when it comes to our vocation, we might learn something from the humble donkey - obstinacy can be a good thing. Stick with it!

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

Lord, help us, as a parish community, to endure in the discernment of our vocations. Whether it be marriage, priesthood, religious life or the single life, grant us the courage to live it out.

**23<sup>rd</sup> February – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
***“Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy”***

A rather pompous priest was endeavoring to impress upon a class of boys the importance of living the Christian life. "Why do people call me a

Christian?" he asked. After a moment's pause, one youngster said, "Maybe it's because they don't know you." There will always be times that we fall short as we strive to grow in holiness and discern and live out our vocation. At least being honest with ourselves of our need for God's mercy in this venture will allow grace to build us up. Jesus speaks of being perfect. Perhaps a better translation is for us to be 'whole' as our heavenly Father is 'whole'. In short, let's be the people our loving Creator intended us to be!

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

Loving Father, grant us the desire to be whole and to follow the vocational path intended for each one of us to bring this wholeness about.

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