

# Sunday Readings

## 18th January 2026

### Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things,  
both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading of your people  
and bestow your peace on our times.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 49:3,5-6

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'  
And now the LORD says,  
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him —  
for I am honoured in the eyes of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength —  
he says:

'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;  
I will make you as a light for the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### Responsorial Psalm

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

**R/. Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.**

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/.**

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/.**

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/.**

Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord. **R/.**



### SECOND READING

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

1:1-3

Paul, called by the will of God to be an Apostle of  
Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those  
sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together  
with all those who in every place call upon the name  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and  
the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### Gospel Acclamation

**John 1:14a, 12a**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us;  
to all who did receive him,  
he gave the authority to become children of God.  
Alleluia.

### GOSPEL

John 1:29-34

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards him,  
and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away  
the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After  
me comes a man who ranks before me, because he  
was before me." I myself did not know him, but for  
this purpose I came baptising with water, that he  
might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness:  
'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and  
it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but  
he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He  
on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this  
is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have  
seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of  
God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*



### Prayer after Communion

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,  
and in your kindness  
make those you have nourished  
by this one heavenly Bread  
one in mind and heart.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

Saturday 24 January 2026

**St Francis de Sales (1567 - 1622)**



He was born near Annécý, in Savoy, studied the law, and was ordained to the priesthood despite the opposition of his father. His first mission was to re-evangelize the people of his home district (the Chablais), who had gone over to Calvinism. Always in danger of his life from hostile Calvinists, he preached with such effectiveness that after four years most of the people

had returned to the Church. He was then appointed bishop of Geneva, and spent the rest of his life reforming and reorganising the diocese, and in caring for the souls of his people by preaching and spiritual guidance.

St Francis taught that we can all attain a devout and spiritual life, whatever our position in society: holiness is not reserved for monks and hermits alone. He wrote that “religious devotion does not destroy: it perfects,” and his spiritual counsel is dedicated to making people more holy by making them more themselves. In his preaching against Calvinism he was driven by love rather than a desire to win: so much so, that it was a Calvinist minister who said “if we honoured anyone as a saint, I know of no-one since the days of the Apostles more worthy of it than this man.”

## Prayer of the Week

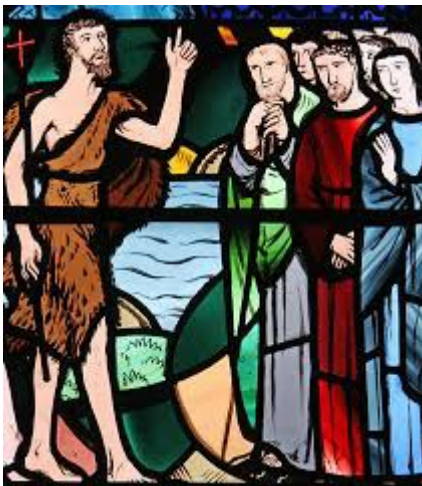
**A Prayer of St Francis de Sales  
Be at Peace**

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day.

He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

**G**od reveals his glory in the unlikeliest of places. In the liturgical calendar, we are back to ordinary time. But in our Gospel reading there is an attempt to make the liturgy of today special. Perhaps it is just to remind us that every Eucharistic celebration is special! As we are in Year A, we should have been listening to the Gospel of Matthew. But our Gospel text for today came from the Gospel of John, as is the case every year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in ordinary time. The liturgy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday invites us once again to focus on the figure of John the Baptist as if to bridge the season of Advent and Christmas with the rest of the year. What can we learn from John the Baptist? John invites us to search for and fulfil our own space in the universe.



John the Baptist had a clear understanding of his mission in life. He knew why he was born during that particular time in human history and in that particular place in the universe. His waiting ends when “the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region

around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,” and saying: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”.

Some of us are tempted to be more than what we are meant to be. We push ourselves too much; we fight; and we get frustrated. John the Baptist didn’t want to be more than the “voice crying in the wilderness”; he had chances to declare himself as the Messiah but he would prefer to say, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal”.

We are called to live our lives fully witnessing to Jesus. And this we do by finding our space in the universe. We are called to turn that ordinary space into something extraordinary.

