

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 25/01/2026A

Homily by Fr. Robin Mampallithadathil CRM

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's readings bring us a powerful message of light, conversion, and unity. They speak to our world today, and they speak very clearly to us as a parish community.

The First Reading from Isaiah begins with hope:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

Darkness can mean many things:

- fear, confusion, loneliness, division, or uncertainty about the future.

Many people in our world live with this kind of darkness. Even among us, some may carry worries about family, work, health, or life far from home.

Isaiah tells us that God does not leave His people in darkness. He sends light. That light is Jesus Christ.

Light does not argue with darkness.

Light simply shines—and darkness disappears.

In the Gospel, Jesus begins His public ministry with one clear message:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The word *repent* does not mean only feeling sorry.

It means change direction.

It means turn your life towards God.

Jesus then calls ordinary people—fishermen at work:

Peter and Andrew, James and John.

He does not choose the rich or powerful.

He chooses people who are willing to listen and respond.

And their response is immediate:

"They left their nets and followed him."

The nets represent security, habits, and comfort.

Following Jesus always involves letting go of something—but we gain much more.

Jesus says:

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

This is important.

First, Jesus says “Follow me.”

Only then does He give a mission.

Christian life is not first about doing things.

It is first about being with Jesus.

From that relationship comes our mission:

- in our families, in our workplaces, in our studies, and in our parish.

We are not all called to do the same thing, but we are all called to bring others closer to Christ, by our words and especially by our lives.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul speaks strongly against division in the Church.

“Is Christ divided?”

The answer is clearly no.

The Church in Corinth was divided by personalities and groups.

This can happen today too—sometimes because of culture, language, opinions, or preferences.

But St. Paul reminds us:

- We are not baptised in the name of any leader,
- We are baptised in the name of Jesus Christ.

Unity does not mean we are all the same.

Unity means we belong to one Lord, and we treat one another with respect, patience, and love.

In a parish like ours, with many cultures and backgrounds, this unity is a witness to the world.

Today’s Gospel ends with Jesus’, teaching, proclaiming, and healing.

Wherever Jesus goes:

- lives are changed, hope is restored, and people are healed.

The same Jesus walks among us today.

He still calls us:

- to step out of darkness into light, to turn our hearts back to God,
to follow Him with trust.

Conclusion

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we hear three invitations:

- To welcome the light of Christ, To change direction and follow Him,
To live in unity as one Church.

Let us ask for the grace to respond as the first disciples did—simply, generously,
and without delay.

May the Lord who has called us out of darkness lead us always in His light.

Amen. Wish you all a Blessed Day of the Lord!