

Sunday 14th January 2024

Epiphany 2



Today's Gospel reading:

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John (1: 43-51)
Glory to you, O Lord.

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

When Jesus met Philip, he said "Follow me". Not only did Philip meet Jesus, but Jesus asked him to become one of his followers. No wonder the first thing he did was to go and tell his friend Nathanael what had happened! It sounds as if Nathanael was a bit dismissive of Philip's news, but Philip's reaction to this was to invite his friend to come and see for himself.

Several of Jesus's disciples came to Jesus through their friends, just as Nathanael came through Philip. Jesus said he had seen Nathanael, so he could have gone to call him himself, but he gave that job to Philip – and he wants us to do that same job today. Jesus wants us to tell other people – our friends and our families – about him, about his love and forgiveness and the opportunity to follow him and to live with him forever. Just like Philip, Jesus calls us to be his messengers and to bring people to God.

This might seem a little scary, but God is always with us, helping us to know what to say. Perhaps this could be the week when we can tell someone about Jesus and about how he is helping us get through the tough times by being alongside us through everything.

 A prayer for this week:

Father God, we are thankful for the happiness that Jesus has brought into our lives. Help us to share it with our friends, so that they might also know the joy that Jesus brings. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Sharing Your Faith

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. John 1:46

The puzzle is based on John 1:43-51



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 Q H Q E Y B P M M M L S U B S
 J A T Z B I O K K E J E S U S
 F E W A L C N R G H X F E H T
 P D R I Y A W A C J A N K V W
 O Y H O S C F A Z T S A D R O
 P P X S H Y A O S A J Q N L C
 B T R E E U I L L K R A B Z A
 R X K I N G L C L L N E M R Y
 Q K I Z Y U Q T S E O M T R K
 N A T H A N A E L O D W P H T

TREE	PETER	COME	CALLED	NATHANAEL
GALILEE	KING	KNOW	NAZARETH	ANDREW
PHILIP	RABBI	FOLLOW	JESUS	ISRAEL

