

### From the Fathers:

#### *From the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council*

By an apostolic tradition taking its origin from the very day of Christ's resurrection, the Church celebrates the paschal mystery every eighth day, the day that is rightly called the Lord's Day. On Sunday the Christian faithful ought to gather together, so that by listening to the word of God and sharing in the Eucharist they may recall the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God who has given them a new birth with a lively hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The Lord's Day is therefore the first and greatest festival, one to be set before the loving devotion of the faithful and impressed upon it, so that it may be also a day of joy and of freedom from work. Other celebrations must not take precedence over it, unless they are truly of the greatest importance, since it is the foundation and the kernel of the whole liturgical year.

### Saints and Heroes:

#### **The Conversion of Saint Paul, 25th January**

In the first chapter of his Epistle to the Galatians, St Paul tells us about his pre-converted life, and how he 'persecuted the Church and tried to destroy it.' On the road to Damascus he experienced a blinding revelation of the Risen Jesus, whose voice bids him cease his destruction of Christ's Body, the Church, and instead rise to a new life and wholly new mission (see Acts 9:1-22). Paul's life, now lived in the knowledge of the light of the Risen Christ, is the most astonishing of all Apostolic lives; he tirelessly proclaims his Saviour with an eloquence unmatched, with fearless tenacity, and profound theological insight into the Mystery of Christ.

*St Paul, Apostle of the Lord, pray for us in the work of evangelization.*

### Collect:

Almighty every-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever, Amen.

21<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Third Sunday of Epiphany/  
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



"Three wonders mark this day we celebrate", the ancient antiphon for the Magnificat at Evening Prayer on the Epiphany sings, "today the star led the Magi to the manger; today water was changed into wine at the marriage feast; today Christ desired to be baptised by John in the river Jordan to bring us salvation, alleluia." So from early times the Church has linked the first of Jesus' miracles that St John's Gospel records with the season of Epiphany. The reason why are the words that St John carefully uses to describe the miracle: it is a 'sign' and a 'manifestation' of the glory of Jesus. It is, primarily, a sign of the transformation that Jesus has come to bring. The water in the jars that are used for the ritual purification of guests is transformed into something new – the good wine that Jesus makes. It is a sign of the 'new work' that God is making in Christ, the joyous abundance of the Kingdom. It's also a 'sign' that resonates in our own lives, for it carries a call to transformation ourselves, day in and day out. How will you open yourself to receive that transformation, so that your life itself becomes a sign of the new wine that Jesus makes?

*Today's Gospel: St. John 2:1-11*