

## SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD...

*This Sunday, our Church invites us to celebrate the Word of God in a special way.*

*This celebration aims to reclaim its importance and centrality in our life of faith through attentive listening, enabling us to respond to our Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us.*

*As we have heard in the Gospel of St Matthew, Jesus begins his ministry by preaching a message of conversion, the proclamation of the Good News of the Kingdom, and at the same time calling his disciples.*

*Christ's call implies a response that translates into following him in faith; in other words, there is no discipleship without the Word.*

*We recognize that in Christ the prophecies announced by the prophet Isaiah are fulfilled: the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. That light is the light of Christ, his Word, his transformative message, and the invitation for us to be his disciples.*

*Now that we understand the importance of Christ's word in our lives, we might ask ourselves why we follow Jesus? What do we find in him and his message that moves us to follow him? Does his word continue to be a light, illuminating our path day by day, and do we respond to this invitation to conversion?*

*That is why it is common to hear it said that it is impossible to know Christ and not love him, to love him and not follow him.*

*Likewise, the word implies discipleship; those disciples did not follow a voice alone, they followed a person: that call, once heard, implies a permanent encounter with Jesus and with the project of the Kingdom.*

*The word, as our Church teaches us, is more than a book; it is above all a person: Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of the Father. Finally, the call, that is, the word received, requires the abandonment of mindsets and ways of organizing life that contradict the teaching and project of Jesus. Those men, having heard Jesus' call, were prepared to leave everything to follow him; renouncing even that which might be permissible in their lives.*

*Pope Francis instituted this Sunday of the Word, inviting us not to become accustomed to this word of life, but to nourish ourselves with it in order to discover its newness and to live our relationship with God and with our brothers and sisters in a deeper way.*

*Let us ask the Virgin Mary, Mother of Listening, to help us receive her Son Jesus, the eternal Word of the Father, and thus become his disciples.*