

READINGS  
FOR VOCATIONS TO HOLY ORDERS  
OR THE RELIGIOUS LIFE

*Taken from the Good News Bible –  
Authorised for Masses with Children*

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

O-1 GNB

Reading

Genesis 12:1-4  
*Leave your country and your family.*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a land that I am going to show you. I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,  
But I will curse those who curse you.  
And through you I will bless all the nations."

So Abram started out, as the Lord had told him to do.

The word of the Lord.

## O-2 GNB

### Reading

Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12  
*I shall be with you.*

A reading from the book of Exodus.

One day while Moses was taking care of the sheep and goats of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, he led the flock across the desert and came to Sinai, the holy mountain. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him as a flame coming from the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire but that it was not burning up. "This is strange," he thought. "Why isn't the bush burning up? I will go closer and see."

When the Lord saw that Moses was coming closer, he called to him from the middle of the bush and said, "Moses! Moses!"

He answered, "Yes, here I am."

God said, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." So Moses covered his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, "I have indeed heard the cry of my people, and I see how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now I am sending you to the king of Egypt so that you can lead my people out of his country."

But Moses said to God, "I am nobody. How can I go to the king and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

God answered, "I will be with you, and when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will worship me on this mountain. That will be the proof that I have sent you."

The word of the Lord.

## O-3 GNB

### Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10

*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.*

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

In those days, when the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under the direction of Eli, there were very few messages from the Lord, and visions from him were quite rare. One night Eli, who was now almost blind, was sleeping in his own room; Samuel was sleeping in the sanctuary, where the sacred Covenant Box was. Before dawn, while the lamp was still burning, the Lord called Samuel. He answered, "Yes, sir!" and ran to Eli and said, "You called me, and here I am."

But Eli answered, "I didn't call you; go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed.

The Lord called Samuel again. The boy did not know that it was the Lord, because the Lord had never spoken to him before. So he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am."

But Eli answered, "My son, I didn't call you; go back to bed."

The Lord called Samuel a third time; he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am."

Then Eli realised that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, so he said to him, "Go back to bed; and if he calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'"

The word of the Lord.

## O-4 GNB

### Reading

1 Kings 19:16, 19-21  
*Elisha rose and followed Elijah.*

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The Lord said to Elijah: "Go, you are to anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet."

Leaving Horeb, Elijah found Elisha ploughing with a team of oxen; there were eleven teams ahead of him, and he was ploughing with the last one. Elijah took off his cloak and put it on Elisha. Elisha then left his oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you."

Elijah answered, "All right, go back. I'm not stopping you!"

Then Elisha went to his team of oxen, killed them, and cooked the meat, using the yoke as fuel for the fire. He gave the meat to the people, and they ate it. Then he went and followed Elijah as his helper.

The word of the Lord.

## O-5 GNB

### Reading

Isaiah 6:1-8

*Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord. He was sitting on his throne, high and exalted, and his robe filled the whole Temple. Around him flaming creatures were standing, each of which had six wings. Each creature covered its face with two wings, and its body with two, and used the other two for flying.

They were calling out to each other:

“Holy, holy, holy!  
The Lord Almighty is holy!  
His glory fills the world.”

The sound of their voices made the foundation of the Temple shake, and the Temple itself became filled with smoke.

I said,

“There is no hope for me! I am doomed  
because every word that passes my lips is sinful,  
and I live among a people whose every word is sinful.  
And yet, with my own eyes I have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

Then one of the creatures flew down to me, carrying a burning coal that he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched my lips with the burning coal and said,

“This has touched your lips,  
and now your guilt is gone,  
and your sins are forgiven.”

Then I heard the Lord say,

“Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?”

I answered, “I will go! Send me!”

The word of the Lord.

O-6 GNB

Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-9  
*Go now to those whom I send you.*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The Lord said to me,

“I chose you before I gave you life,  
and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations.”

I answered, “Sovereign Lord, I don't know how to speak; I am too young.”  
But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say that you are too young,  
but go to the people I send you to,  
and tell them everything I command you to say.  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I will be with you to protect you.  
I, the Lord, have spoken!”

Then the Lord reached out, touched my lips, and said to me,

“Listen, I am giving you the words you must speak.”

The word of the Lord.

O-7 GNB

Reading

Jeremiah 20:7-9

*There seemed to be a fire burning in my heart.*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Lord, you have deceived me,  
and I was deceived.  
You are stronger than I am,  
and you have overpowered me.  
Everyone makes fun of me;  
they laugh at me all day long.  
Whenever I speak, I have to cry out  
and shout, "Violence! Destruction!"  
Lord, I am ridiculed and scorned all the time  
because I proclaim your message.  
But when I say, "I will forget the Lord  
and no longer speak in his name,"  
then your message is like a fire  
burning deep within me.  
I try my best to hold it in,  
but can no longer keep it back.

The word of the Lord.

# READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

N-1 GNB  
*For priestly vocations*

Reading

2 Corinthians 5:14-20

*God gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation.*

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

We are ruled by the love of Christ, now that we recognise that one man died for everyone, which means that they all share in his death. He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but only for him who died and was raised to life for their sake.

No longer, then, do we judge anyone by human standards. Even if at one time we judged Christ according to human standards, we no longer do so. Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. Our message is that God was making all human beings his friends through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends.

Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends!

The word of the Lord.



## N-2 GNB

### Reading

Philippians 3:8-14

*I have accepted the loss of everything, if only I can have Christ.*

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

I reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is so much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have thrown everything away; I consider it all as mere garbage, so that I may gain Christ and be completely united with him. I no longer have a righteousness of my own, the kind that is gained by obeying the Law. I now have the righteousness that is given through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God and is based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death, in the hope that I myself will be raised from death to life.

I do not claim that I have already succeeded or have already become perfect. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to himself. Of course, my friends, I really do not think that I have already won it; the one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above.

The word of the Lord.

N-3 GNB  
*For priestly vocations*

Reading

Hebrews 5:1-10

*Christ is called by God 'priest in the order of Melchizedek'.*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Every high priest is chosen from his fellow-men and appointed to serve God on their behalf, to offer sacrifices and offerings for sins. Since he himself is weak in many ways, he is able to be gentle with those who are ignorant and make mistakes. And because he is himself weak, he must offer sacrifices not only for the sins of the people but also for his own sins. No one chooses for himself the honour of being a high priest. It is only by God's call that a man is made a high priest—just as Aaron was.

In the same way, Christ did not take upon himself the honour of being a high priest. Instead, God said to him,

“You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father.”

He also said in another place,

“You will be a priest forever,  
in the priestly order of Melchizedek.”

In his life on earth Jesus made his prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to God, who could save him from death. Because he was humble and devoted, God heard him. But even though he was God's Son, he learned through his sufferings to be obedient. When he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him, and God declared him to be high priest, in the priestly order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

# RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

P-1

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 15(16):1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 *R* cf. v.5

*R* You are my inheritance, O Lord.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.'  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.

*R* You are my inheritance, O Lord.

2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

*R* You are my inheritance, O Lord.

3. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever.

*R* You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26(27):1, 4, 5, 8b-9ab, 9cd+11 R̄ v.8

R̄ It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
the Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
Before whom shall I shrink?

R̄ It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
To live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple.

R̄ It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.

3. For there he keeps me safe in his tent  
in the day of evil.  
He hides me in the shelter of his tent,  
on a rock he sets me safe.

R̄ It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.

4. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face.  
Dismiss not your servant in anger;  
you have been my help.

R̄ It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.

5. Do not abandon or forsake me,  
O God my help!  
Instruct me, Lord, in your way;  
on an even path lead me.

R̄ It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 39(40):2+4ab, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 12 R̥ vv.8-9

R̥ Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

1. 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.

R̥ Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,  
but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.  
Instead, here am I.

R̥ Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

3. 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.

R̥ Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

4. Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord.

R̥ Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

5. O Lord, you will not withhold  
your compassion from me.  
Your merciful love and your truth  
will always guard me.

R̥ Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 83(84):3-4, 6+8a, 11 R̕ v.5

R̕ They are happy, who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their joy  
to God, the living God.

R̕ They are happy, who dwell in your house, O Lord.

2. The sparrow herself finds a home  
and the swallow a nest for her brood;  
she lays her young by your altars,  
Lord of host, my king and my God.

R̕ They are happy, who dwell in your house, O Lord.

3. They are happy, whose strength is in you,  
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion.  
They walk with ever growing strength.

R̕ They are happy, who dwell in your house, O Lord.

4. One day within your courts  
is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
The threshold of the house of God  
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.

R̕ They are happy, who dwell in your house, O Lord.

## ALLELUIA VERSES AND VERSES BEFORE THE GOSPEL

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During the season of Lent, the *Alleluia* sung before and after the Verse before the Gospel is replaced by an acclamation such as:

*Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

*Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!*

*Glory and praise to you, O Christ!*

*Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!*

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### V-1 GNB

#### Gospel Acclamation

Cf. John 15:16

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
I chose you from the world  
to go out and to bear much fruit,  
the kind of fruit that endures.  
Alleluia!

### V-2 GNB

#### Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 3:8-9

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
I have thrown everything away;  
I consider it all as mere garbage,  
so that I may gain Christ  
and be completely united with him.  
Alleluia!

### V-3 GNB

#### Gospel Acclamation

John 15:5

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
I am the vine,  
and you are the branches.  
Those who remain in me, and I in them,  
will bear much fruit, says the Lord.  
Alleluia!

V-4 GNB

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:17

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Come with me,  
and I will teach you to catch people.  
Alleluia!



# GOSPEL READINGS

## G-1 GNB

Gospel

Matthew 9:35-37

*The harvest is rich but the labourers are few.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus went around visiting all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News about the Kingdom, and healed people with every kind of disease and sickness.

As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. So he said to his disciples, "The harvest is large, but there are few workers to gather it in."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## G-2 GNB

### Gospel

Mark 10:17-27

*Go and sell everything you own, then come, follow me.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not accuse anyone falsely; do not cheat; respect your father and your mother.’”

“Teacher,” the man said, “ever since I was young, I have obeyed all these commandments.”

Jesus looked straight at him with love and said, “You need only one thing. Go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then come and follow me.” When the man heard this, gloom spread over his face, and he went away sad, because he was very rich.

Jesus looked around at his disciples and said to them, “How hard it will be for rich people to enter the Kingdom of God!”

The disciples were shocked at these words, but Jesus went on to say, “My children, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God! It is much harder for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.”

At this the disciples were completely amazed and asked one another, “Who, then, can be saved?”

Jesus looked straight at them and answered, “This is impossible for human beings but not for God; everything is possible for God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## G-3 GNB

### Gospel

Mark 10:28-30

*You will be repaid a hundred times over – not without persecutions –  
now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Peter said to Jesus. “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”

“Yes,” Jesus said to them, “and I tell you that those who leave home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and for the gospel, will receive much more in this present age. They will receive a hundred times more houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields—and persecutions as well; and in the age to come they will receive eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-4 GNB  
*For vocations to Holy Orders*

Gospel

Luke 5:1-11

*From now on it is men you catch.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

One day Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret while the people pushed their way up to him to listen to the word of God. He saw two boats pulled up on the beach; the fishermen had left them and were washing the nets. Jesus got into one of the boats—it belonged to Simon—and asked him to push off a little from the shore. Jesus sat in the boat and taught the crowd.

When he finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Push the boat out further to the deep water, and you and your partners let down your nets for a catch.”

“Master,” Simon answered, “we worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets.” They let them down and caught such a large number of fish that the nets were about to break. So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full of fish that the boats were about to sink. When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he fell on his knees before Jesus and said, “Go away from me, Lord! I am a sinful man!”

He and the others with him were all amazed at the large number of fish they had caught. The same was true of Simon's partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Jesus said to Simon, “Don't be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”

They pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## G-5 GNB

### Gospel

Luke 9:57-62

*Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

As Jesus and his disciples travelled along they met a man on the road, who said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down and rest."

He said to another man, "Follow me."

But that man said, "Sir, first let me go back and bury my father."

Jesus answered, "Let the dead bury their own dead. You go and proclaim the Kingdom of God."

Someone else said, "I will follow you, sir; but first let me go and say good-bye to my family."

Jesus said to him, "Anyone who starts to plough and then keeps looking back is of no use for the Kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## G-6 GNB

### Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

*Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Once when large crowds of people were going along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, "Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well. Those who do not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciples.

If one of you is planning to build a tower, you sit down first and figure out what it will cost, to see if you have enough money to finish the job. If you don't, you will not be able to finish the tower after laying the foundation; and all who see what happened will make fun of you. 'You began to build but can't finish the job!' they will say. If a king goes out with ten thousand men to fight another king who comes against him with twenty thousand men, he will sit down first and decide if he is strong enough to face that other king. If he isn't, he will send messengers to meet the other king to ask for terms of peace while he is still a long way off. In the same way," concluded Jesus, "none of you can be my disciple unless you give up everything you have."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## G-7 GNB

### Gospel

John 1:35-51

*Follow me.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

As John was standing with two of his disciples, he saw Jesus walking by. "There is the Lamb of God!" he said.

The two disciples heard him say this and went with Jesus. Jesus turned, saw them following him, and asked, "What are you looking for?"

They answered, "Where do you live, Rabbi?" (This word means "Teacher.")

"Come and see," he answered. (It was then about four o'clock in the afternoon.) So they went with him and saw where he lived, and spent the rest of that day with him.

One of them was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. At once he found his brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah." (This word means "Christ.") Then he took Simon to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "Your name is Simon son of John, but you will be called Cephas." (This is the same as Peter and means "a rock.")

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come with me!" (Philip was from Bethsaida, the town where Andrew and Peter lived.)

Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one whom Moses wrote about in the book of the Law and whom the prophets also wrote about. He is Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

"Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," answered Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, he said about him, "Here is a real Israelite; there is nothing false in him!"

Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "I saw you when you were under the fig tree before Philip called you."

"Teacher," answered Nathanael, "you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus said, "Do you believe just because I told you I saw you when you were under the fig tree? You will see much greater things than this!" And he said to them, "I am telling you the truth: you will see heaven open and God's angels going up and coming down on the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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The Gospel of the Lord.

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G-8 GNB

Gospel

John 15:9-17

*You did not choose me, no, I chose you.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I love you  
just as the Father loves me;  
remain in my love.  
If you obey my commands,  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have obeyed my Father's commands  
and remain in his love.  
“I have told you this  
so that my joy may be in you  
and that your joy may be complete.  
My commandment is this:  
love one another,  
just as I love you.  
The greatest love you can have for your friends  
is to give your life for them.  
And you are my friends  
if you do what I command you.  
I do not call you servants any longer,  
because servants do not know  
what their master is doing.  
Instead, I call you friends,  
because I have told you  
everything I heard from my Father.  
You did not choose me;  
I chose you  
and appointed you  
to go and bear much fruit,  
the kind of fruit that endures.  
And so the Father will give you  
whatever you ask of him in my name.  
This, then, is what I command you:  
love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.