

Prayer Service:

NEW BEGINNINGS

The Arrival of Br Ambrose Treacy and Companions

It was late on 18 November 1868 when the Donald McKay anchored about a quarter of a mile from the wharf at Port Melbourne, too late for the Brothers to go ashore. It was dark and they knew no one.

((Regis Hickey cfc, Patrick Ambrose Treacy: Christian Brother, Enterprising Immigrant))

Going to unknown places, beginning a new venture, can be frightening, demanding courage, faith and resilience. Familiar faces are left behind, comfortable surroundings removed; uncertainty and doubt may begin to seep in.

Reflect on your own experience of moving to a new and unfamiliar community or new ministry. How were you in that situation?

Pause and then share

The Scripture Call of Discipleship

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Ambrose, together with his Brothers, Dominic Fursey Bodkin, John Barnabas Lynch and Patrick Joseph Nolan, embarked on a mission in the spirit of this Gospel call, open to what might lie ahead, ready to employ whatever gifts each had to offer in the service of the poor in a spirit of faith, relying on God’s abiding Presence.

Today we share their continuing story by searching a “new way of being brother for the world” and “To build joyful communities, characterised by intimacy, gentleness, compassion and love.” (Nairobi #1)

Response: *May we have listening hearts to guide us
as we follow in their footsteps*

As we search for ways to engage with those made poor and in so doing recognise our own fragility

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As we acknowledge and support all those who now share in the mission of Jesus and Edmund,

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As we look at our world around us with all its needs and reflect on how we are now being called to respond in new ways

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As we give thanks for our dedicated associates, collaborators and companions and accompany them on their journey



*Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.
Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back; learn to find ease in the risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm
For your soul senses the world that's awaits you.*

John O'Donohue (For a New Beginning from Benedictus)

Blessing Psalm 123:

My centeredness in God makes me solid like the mountain.
Boulders fall, pebbles cascade, but the core stands strong.
The mountains shelter the city
like God curving her arms around us.
In the end, all will be well here.
The people of the city will thrive.
Show your goodness, O God, in all your ways.
Awaken our goodness
Help us mend the torn fabric, and
make our city strong.

(Christine Robinson: Psalms for a new World)

Suggested Songs:

The Servant Song: AOV 2: 169

Send Us Your Spirit: AOV 1: 97