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The Week Ahead

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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• **Sunday 14**
1 Sam 3:3-10, 19, Psalm 39:2, 4, 7-10,
St John 1:35-42

We have been called by Christ to become children of God. How we respond is illustrated in Today's Readings. There is a seeking which develops into a search that leads to seeing and believing.

• **Monday 15**
1 Sm 15:16-23, Psalm 49:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23,
St Mark 2:18-22

Saul is failing as king because he does not act with authority. He allows the people to make decisions even though he knows they are not according to God's plan. Obedience, he is told, is better than sacrifice.

St Ita was born in Co. Waterford of noble and Christian parents. Early on she set her mind on serving Christ in religious life. She founded a monastery in Killeedy, Co. Limerick, which attracted a great variety of young people. She was given the title 'foster-mother of the saints of Ireland'. She died in 570.

• **Tuesday 16**
1 Sm 16:1-13, Psalm 88:20-22, 27-28,
St Mark 2:23-28

The Sabbath was to give freedom to all. The Christian Sunday is a day of joy and celebration of the freedom given by the Risen Christ. It unites all Christians in its observance.

St Fursa was born in Ireland and became one of the great monastic missionaries abroad. He went first with his brothers Foillan and Ultan to live the monastic life in East Anglia. But as great numbers continued to visit him there he left Foillan as abbot and sought refuge in France around 644. A patron gave him a hermitage at Logny on the Marne. He died about 650 at Mezerolles and was buried in Peronne, which became a great centre of devotion to him.

• **Wednesday 17**
1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51, Psalm 143:1-2, 9-10,
St Mark 3:1-6

In the work for Christian unity it is necessary not to lose confidence in God, who can work through weak human instruments.

St Anthony, died 356. 'Father of monasticism,' lived a life of solitude but also attracted many others to form communities of hermits.

• **Thursday 18**
Jonathan brings a reconciliation between David and Saul. Jesus brings healing to many afflicted.
1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7, Psalm 55:2-3, 9-14, St Mark 3:7-12

• **Friday 19**
1 Sm 24:3-21, Psalm 56:2-4, 6, 11, St Mark 3:13-19

'Relations between Christians call for every

possible form of practical cooperation at all levels: pastoral, cultural and social, as well as that of witnessing to the Gospel message...Unity of action leads to full unity of faith' (Ut Unum Sint, 40).

• **Saturday 20**
2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 17, 19, 23-27, Psalm 79:2-3, 5-7, St Mark 3:20-21

At every Mass, the Church prays for unity and peace, mindful of the prayer of Jesus: 'may they all be one.'

St Fabian had been Pope for fourteen years when martyred under Decius in the year 250.

St Sebastian may have been a soldier and was martyred in the persecution of Diocletian. He sustained many others in their trials.

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The Pope's Intention for January 2018

Evangelization: Religious Minorities in Asia That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.

Loss & Bereavement
The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a range of training services in the area of Loss and Bereavement. Places on all workshops are limited - early booking is advisable.

The website is www.hospice-foundation.ie
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