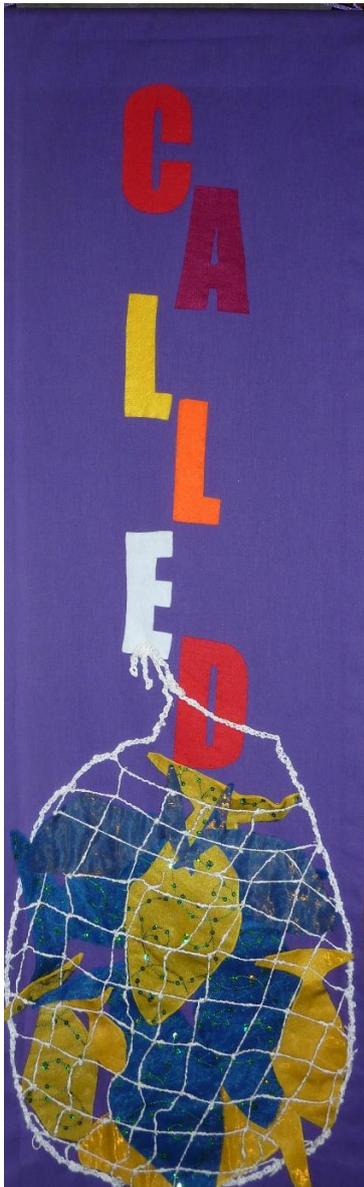


## Lent 2021, I Wonder.....?

### Week 1 – “Called”

Each week during Lent there will be an opportunity to reflect, to wonder.... and pray around some of the stations of the Cross. The format will, in the main, incorporate elements of LiFT and Thoughts from the Prayer Corner.

This week, we will be thinking about the calling of the Disciples, using the reading from Luke’s Gospel.



#### Jesus Calls His First Disciples

<sup>5</sup> One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,<sup>[a]</sup> the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.

<sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:1-11

*There are a few questions for contemplation sited within the following narrative, please allow yourselves time to reflect on them during the coming week.*

Situated at the north end of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus found himself speaking to a large group of people, gathered, and hoping to hear the word of God from Jesus. The fishermen themselves, had had a fruitless night for fish, were tired, were cleaning their nets in preparation for the next time, were ready to go home and were possibly quite discouraged.

*I wonder how many times we find ourselves in a similar position having thrown everything into a task and then seen relatively little fruit for our efforts? How do we respond? Do we just give up or try again? When we feel dispirited how do we motivate ourselves?*

Getting into one of the boats, Jesus speaks to the people from a short distance. Having done so Jesus asks Simon to sail out to deeper waters to fish once again. We can only imagine the kinds of thoughts that might have crossed Simon's mind and yet, he obeys, and is rewarded with, not only his boat full of fish but that of his team members too!

*How often do we lay all our facts before the Lord thinking that there are too many obstacles in the way for the request that He is making, to ever be fulfilled? How long before we are obedient and with what result?*

The quantity of fish in the catch was probably equivalent to a fortnights work at night. Fish being harder to catch during the day!

In a moment of insight, Simon recognises his own sinfulness in the presence of the holiness of Jesus.

Being told by Jesus, that he, along with James and John, would become "fishers of men" I wonder what would they have understood by that?

*I wonder - what does being a "fisher of men" mean for us in the current age? What are we already doing in our lives that might leave an impression on those who do not know Jesus and what more could we do?*

Simon Peter, James and John gave up their lifestyle of catching fish, which, out of water, would die and be eaten, for one of giving life and freedom to all who would listen.

*Trusting in Jesus and not being afraid, what does that mean for us?*

Below is the same passage in The Voice which could be used more meditatively:

**5** *Picture these events:*

On the banks of Gennesaret Lake, a huge crowd, Jesus in the centre of it, presses in to hear His message from God. <sup>2</sup> Off to the side, fishermen are washing their nets, leaving their boats unattended on the shore.

<sup>3</sup> Jesus gets into one of the boats and asks its owner, Simon, to push off *and anchor* a short distance from the beach. Jesus sits down and teaches the people standing on the beach.

<sup>4</sup> After speaking for a while, Jesus speaks to Simon.

**Jesus:** Move out into deeper water, and drop your nets to see what you'll catch.

**Simon** (*perplexed*): <sup>5</sup> Master, we've been fishing all night, and we haven't caught even a minnow. But . . . all right, I'll do it if You say so.

<sup>6</sup> Simon then gets his fellow fishermen to help him let down their nets, *and to their surprise*, the water is bubbling with thrashing fish—a *huge school*. The strands of their nets start snapping under the weight of the catch, <sup>7</sup> so the crew shouts to the other boat to come out and give them a hand. They start scooping fish out of the nets and into their boats, and before long, their boats are so full of fish they almost sink!

<sup>8-10</sup> Simon's fishing partners, James and John (two of Zebedee's sons), along with the rest of the fishermen, see this incredible haul of fish. They're all stunned, especially Simon. He comes close to Jesus and kneels in front of His knees.

**Simon:** I can't take this, Lord. I'm a sinful man. You shouldn't be around the likes of me.

**Jesus:** Don't be afraid, Simon. From now on, I'll ask you to bring Me people instead of fish.

<sup>11</sup> The fishermen haul their fish-heavy boats to land, and they leave everything to follow Jesus.



The picture above is taken from Church, Easter 2015. An opportunity for the Holy Spirit to speak through the visual.

On the final page is an outline of a couple of fish. You might like to take some quiet moments with God as you colour them in and perhaps write on them the names of folk that you would like to meet with Jesus, or some thought or verse that you would like to remember, that has spoken to you from the reading.

As I was preparing this, my thoughts took off at a tangent (those who know me will not be surprised by this!) In Jesus' time, the fish in the sea would have been relatively clean, but these days they are so often polluted with microbes of plastic, as are the seas and oceans of our world. Along with being called to share the good news of Jesus, how are we being called to save the environment? Something to pray about....

Before we conclude with a final prayer, let's listen to

"I will follow you" by Chris Tomlin. Enjoy the young people worshipping.

<https://youtu.be/d8Chv0QmRik>

Lord, You called together  
Your chosen team of men  
You asked them to follow You  
which willingly, they did.  
I wonder if they ever had  
any moments of doubt  
or longings for a life  
once lived?

Lord, forgive us,  
when we at times,  
may stumble or fall.  
Lord, You are our everything,  
You are our all.  
You are the solid rock  
beneath our feet,  
You're our guide  
who lights our path  
as we journey on our way.  
You are the one who is always with us,  
even through the long hours  
of the night.  
You are the arms of comfort,  
our Protector in the fight.

Follow me, You said  
and continue to say  
to each and everyone of us  
as we live our lives each day.

Help us Lord, always,  
to keep You in our sights,  
not wander from the pathways  
that lead to eternal Life.  
And, in a quiet moment  
at the beginning of the day,  
we have an opportunity, to say  
I will follow You Lord Jesus  
Not just today, but always. Amen

