

Theme of the Week - Fishers of men

The Gospel from this week has a little bit of an overlap from last week's. In last week's Gospel from St John, we learnt of the Lamb of God from the message of John the Baptist and then we heard Andrew and Simon Peter meeting Jesus for the first time with Andrew stating he had found the Messiah. This week's Gospel from Mark, we see Jesus firstly proclaiming the Good News and then both Simon Peter and Andrew being called to follow him: *'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.'*

When you take the two readings together they convey a very powerful message for us as followers of Christ. Firstly, we, like Andrew and Simon Peter, need to believe in the message given to us. John the Baptist gave this to them, we are given this message from Jesus himself and through his ministry. However, it is not just about learning the message of Christ but it is about being a disciple of Jesus and following him in our actions. Jesus makes a claim upon the disciples and gives a new direction to their lives. St Mark (the writer of the Gospel) gives the impression that Peter and Andrew answered Jesus' call by leaving behind their livelihood, whereas James and John later responded by severing family ties. Mark's primary purpose seems to be to show that discipleship entails giving yourself to Christ in everything you do.

In last week's theme of the week, it was mentioned that the term discipleship at the time was quite a normal thing. It was customary for Jewish students to approach a distinguished teacher and attach themselves to him, however here the teacher (Jesus) makes the first move. The disciples left behind a thriving and secure business to follow Jesus, emphasising the costliness of discipleship with its demands to leave behind family and financial security. We know that God has an important message to send and chooses us to do it, however we may never know how God uses us to relay that message. The disciples must have been afraid to change their way of life, afraid of the unknown, of the risks they were taking, fear of the unknown can be a stumbling block to change in our lives. When we too examine our own lives and our daily routines, we too can be a little afraid of doing something different in front of our friends or peers, even though we know it is the right thing to do; we are afraid of the unknown or how others will look upon us. However, the message from this week's and last week's Gospel should encourage us in our own lives. We learn about Christ and his ministry in our Catholic community through Mass, during form time, R.E lessons, assemblies and many other ways. Let us now not be afraid to illustrate this message ourselves in what we do so we too can become true disciples of Jesus.

Fishers of men

Weekly Reflections
21st January 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (1:14-20)

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, you sent your son to give us the Good News and invite us to be true disciples of Him. Continue to give us the courage and confidence to carry out his ministry so we too can allow others to follow Christ through ourselves.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Feast Day - St. Agnes 21 January



Agnes was very beautiful and from a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after however she made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death. When a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse."

When she refused the Governor's son in marriage, she was sentenced to death. Even pagans cried to see such a beautiful girl going to her death but she smiled and said 'He chose me first and He shall have me!

Agnes was:

**Intentional and
Prophetic**

Day 1

Can you recall from last week's Gospel what the 'Lamb of God' means?

When learning this message, why do you think Andrew and Simon Peter were encouraged to become disciples of Jesus?

Day 2

Can you give examples of the Good News of Jesus? i.e what has Jesus taught you? How has Jesus taught us to act to one another? How can you illustrate these teachings in your daily lives?

Day 3

Has there been times where you have wanted to do good but were afraid of the reaction of others? What can you do differently and not be afraid of so you too can be a disciple of Jesus?