

Theme of the Week - Follow Me

The Jubilee 2025 calls us to become 'Pilgrims of Hope'. For Christians, hope is rooted in the encounter with Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection reveal God's transformative love. This hope is continually renewed through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the bond of love between the Father and the Son, which is present and active within the community of believers. Throughout 2025, various Jubilee days have been designated to honour and celebrate specific groups and ministries within the Church. One such occasion is the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel, taking place from Saturday, February 8, to Sunday, February 9, 2025. In a recent address to participants of the 64th International Military Pilgrimage at the Marian Shrine of Lourdes, Pope Francis entrusted to God's mercy all those who had fallen while serving their countries and defending peace. He encouraged Catholic members of the military to let their faith guide their service, saying: *"The world needs you, especially at this dark moment in our history. We need men and women of faith who are capable of putting weapons at the service of peace and brotherhood."* This Jubilee serves as a powerful reminder that those in service roles are called to be instruments of hope, peace, and reconciliation in a divided world.

Luke's Gospel reveals the importance of trusting in Jesus, recognizing God's power, and being willing to follow His call. It encourages humility, faith, and readiness to embrace a new purpose in life. Some of the main themes in this passage include:

Trust and Obedience to God: Despite Simon Peter's doubts, he listens to Jesus and obeys His instruction to "put out into deep water." This act of trust leads to an overwhelming, miraculous catch of fish. The Gospel teaches that trusting and obeying God's word, can bring abundant blessings.

God's Power and Abundance: The miraculous catch highlights God's ability to provide beyond human expectations. It reveals Jesus' divine authority over nature and symbolizes the spiritual abundance that comes through faith.

Discipleship and Mission: Jesus calls Simon Peter to leave his old life behind and follow Him. The phrase "from now on you will be catching men" signifies their new mission: to bring others to God. This theme reflects the call to discipleship, where ordinary people are invited to play a role in God's work.

The gospel passage from Luke connects to many virtues from our Pupil Profile, including being **Intentional** and **Prophetic**:

The actions of Simon Peter and his companions are **intentional**. Peter chooses to trust Jesus' word and intentionally takes action by letting down the nets. Later, they make a deliberate decision to follow Jesus, showing purpose and commitment to their new calling.

Jesus' words and actions in this Gospel carry a **prophetic** message: a call to transformation and a new mission. When Jesus tells Simon Peter, "From now on you will fish for people," He is not only foretelling Peter's future but inviting him to play a **prophetic** role in sharing God's message with the world. Peter's willingness to leave everything and follow Jesus marks the beginning of his **prophetic** journey, as he becomes a leader who proclaims the Gospel and brings others to faith.

Follow Me

Weekly Reflections
9th February 2025
5th week in ordinary time



From the Gospel of Luke (5: 1-11)

At that time: The crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear the word of God. He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' And Simon answered, 'Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.' And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.' For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.' And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Prayer for the Week

Loving Lord, You call us to trust in Your word, even when we doubt or feel unworthy. Help us to have faith like Simon Peter, to follow You with open hearts and leave behind what holds us back. Teach us to "put out into deep water," knowing that with You, all things are possible.

Through Christ our Lord
Amen

Day 1

Discuss with students Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel (Blue text on 1st page).

Then, reflect on the following question:

How can faith guide those who serve in the armed forces, police, and security to become instruments of peace and hope in the world?

Day 2

What do you think Jesus means when he says: "you will fish for people"?
What "nets" in our lives (e.g. comforts, habits, fears) might we need to leave behind to follow Jesus more fully?

Day 3

What does it mean (to you) to live **Intentionally** and **Prophetically** as a follower of Jesus?

Catholic Social Teaching - Dignity of Work and Participation

We respect the dignity of work and the rights of workers. Church teaching has upheld the dignity of work and participation. The human person should always come before the pursuit of profit. Workers have the right to join trade unions, to a just wage, to spend time with their families and to rest. Work is an essential part of our human dignity and everyone has the right to participate.

"It is essential that we continue to prioritise the goal of access to steady employment for everyone, no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning" - Pope Francis

How this half term can you promote the Dignity of Work and Participation in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?