

## Theme of the Week - It is the Lord

In Sunday's Gospel we hear of the miracle of the catching of the fish. Seven of the disciples have been out fishing all night and to no avail. Jesus appears and instructs them to cast their nets to the right of the boat and in an instance they had caught one hundred and fifty-three fish in total. And it is the catching of the fish that John (the disciple whom Jesus loved) recognised Jesus. The Greek word for fish is 'Ichthys' and this is an acronym in Greek of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. 'Iēsous meaning Jesus, Christos meaning Christ, Theou meaning God, Yios meaning Son and Sōtēr meaning Saviour. Only through this miracle, a miracle that only the Son of God had the power to work, were the disciples able to recognise Jesus on his third appearance to them after His death.

The sign of the fish was an early symbol of Christianity with a boat being an early sign for the Church. And the disciples were responsible for the enormous catch of leading people to Jesus when Christianity grew. Peter in the Gospel takes a leading role in the Gospel of jumping out of the boat and rushing to Jesus (Jesus said he would be the rock that he would build His Church) with the other disciples playing their part in doing lots of the hard work of dragging the haul in. And it is because of the actions of these disciples after Jesus' death that allows us to sit and listen to the wonders of Jesus and His Father. However, we must also acknowledge that the disciples initially returned to their old occupations after Jesus' Death, afraid and feeling alone. They too needed Jesus to appear to them to truly see their vocation and he did so by providing a meal for His friends like he does for us through the Eucharist during Mass.

Sometimes we need to acknowledge to ourselves that we may be in the infancy of our faith like the Church was when Jesus appeared to the disciples. It might be the case for many of us that we haven't gone overboard for Jesus like Peter because either we haven't recognised the moments when Jesus has appeared to us or not fully understood when he has. As the breakfast on the beach nourished the disciples, how does the Eucharist continue to nourish those who follow the risen Lord? How have we met the commitment that discipleship calls us to do? How can we act on that this week? How can we be more **Active** and **Curious** in allowing ourselves to be more open to Jesus so we too can find our calling and vocation in life?

# It is the Lord

Weekly Reflections  
4<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter



## From the Gospel of John (21: 1-14)

At that time: Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, do you have any fish?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred metres off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

## Prayer for the Week

Gracious God,

Accept our praise for all you have done in Christ - a mystery before which we stand in awe, a wonder before which we bow down in praise.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

### Day 1

What is the Greek word for fish?

What is **Icthyus** also an acronym for in Greek?

Why do you think the sign for early Christianity was a fish?

### Day 2

When Jesus died, why do you think the disciples went back to their old ways of fishing rather than spreading the Good News of Christ?

When Jesus appeared, what did it give the disciples and why?

### Day 3

How can you be more **Active** and **Curious** in seeking out Jesus in your life but also by showing it to others in theirs?

## Catholic Social Teaching - Peace

Today the world has a profound thirst for peace. In many countries, people are suffering due to wars which, though often forgotten, are always the cause of suffering and poverty." **Pope Francis, 20 September 2016**

Peace is not just the absence of war. It is part of God's nature, and a value we should all seek to live out in our daily lives.

"Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life." **Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 225**

How this half term can you promote Peace in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?