

FAITH @ Home

9 FEBRUARY 2025: 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | YEAR C



Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 137 (138):1-5, 7-8

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel:

Luke 5:1-11



"PUT OUT INTO DEEP WATER AND
PAY OUT YOUR NETS FOR A CATCH"

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Hear



Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [HERE](#).

Pray



In the Gospel today we hear how Jesus called Simon (Peter) to be a fisher of men. Take some time to reflect on the key message of this week's Gospel. Think about the following:

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Imagine yourself in this scene: would you have found it easy to obey Jesus if you were weary after an unsuccessful night fishing? How would you have felt before and after the miraculous catch?
- Simon (Peter) immediately recognised the condition of his heart, and humbled himself before Jesus. Take time to pray this week to honestly present yourself to Jesus, with your joys, struggles, plans and fears and allow Him to enter right into all of them.

Family Prayer



Lord Jesus, You call each of us to follow You, just as You did Simon Peter. Give us the courage and zeal He had to commit our lives to You, to step outside our comfort zones and fulfill whatever mission You have for each of us. Amen

Talk



Today's Gospel teaches us a lot about the figure of Simon (Peter), our first Pope!

- What makes a good leader? What kind of leader would you follow? What makes a good captain in sport?
- Jesus singled Peter out in this gospel, preaching from his boat, calling him specifically to follow Him. What qualities do you think Jesus saw in Peter?
- Peter went on to become the leader of the early Church, and our first pope. He inspired others and gave his life totally to Jesus. What kind of people inspire you? Who do you look up to?
- Can you think of any saints who really inspire you? Share their stories with each other. Maybe even look up the lives of more saints to learn about them too!

Family Challenge!



Have a fun game of Simon Says together! Remember to pray especially for all priests, bishops and our Pope this week too!

PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP

Have you ever felt utterly disheartened? You've given it your all, you've used every skill, every resource at your disposal and it still wasn't good enough. You're weary, and you feel like giving up, maybe even questioning your own worth or ability because of this apparent failure?


If so, you can clearly identify with Simon (Peter) today. A fisherman whose whole livelihood depended on his ability to draw in a big catch, Simon had the skill to know the waters, times of day and seasons. Fishing was his life, possibly even gave him his sense of worth and purpose, but in today's Gospel, that seems to be taken from him. Empty nets, empty hands, empty heart.

Then a Nazarene, a carpenter arrives on the scene, not just offering advice, but explicitly instructing him how to fish. At the best of times, such advice probably would have been an annoyance, but at that moment, it might have sounded unbearable. Fish did not come to the surface of the lake during the day, that is why they went out on the lake at night. Didn't everyone know that?

Simon obeys however: something about this Jesus, this preacher from Nazareth, causes him to cast out his nets again. This simple act of faith transformed not just his catch that night, but his entire life and countless souls who have called themselves Christian ever since. Simon's reaction to the miracle was complete humility: something about Jesus' words and actions caused him to "put out into the deep" of his own heart too, and see there his weaknesses and lack of faith. Jesus saw Simon's depth of faith and repentance, and called him to greater things, things he could not possibly have understood at the time, but which he accepted in faith. Called now to "put out into the deep" of humanity and fish for souls, Simon's life would never be the same again.

The catch of fish that day was miraculous, but the point of miracles is not for their own sakes, but rather to point to God, to increase our faith. What am I struggling with in my own life right now? What am I tackling, through my own strength alone? Instead of telling God how big my problem is, I should tell my problem how big my God is!

Remember Simon too, once an insignificant fisherman on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus saw something in him. It was no coincidence He got into Simon's boat that day, and although all saw the miracle, it was Simon He first called to be a fisher of men. Just as Jesus saw into the depth of the lake that day, He sees into the depth of our hearts too, beneath the surface we present to others; He knows what worth lies there, ready to be brought forth by His grace if we respond to His call. "Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?" I answered, "Here I am, send me." (Isaiah 6:8)





CARLO'S CORNER

Lead your heart

This Gospel passage tells the familiar story of the miraculous catch of fish. Simon (Peter) has been fishing all night, and is no doubt exhausted. He's skilled at his trade, but for whatever reason, the night has not gone his way, and he has nothing to show for his efforts. He's weary, disappointed, possibly cranky at the loss of earnings, the weather, his own inability, maybe the faults of others. He could have lots of excuses to just pack up and go home. Then Jesus of Nazareth, a carpenter, not a fisherman, tells him to cast his nets again. Simon has listened to Jesus preaching and although every emotion in him was already strained and telling him to give up, he chose to obey (although not without a little grumbling!) We know what happens next: his nets filled to breaking point, his boats almost sank! Simon dropped to his knees, overcome and significantly very aware of the condition of his own heart. We don't know a lot about Simon before this point, but the heart of Jesus spoke directly to his heart that day, and caused him to leave his comfort zone and follow Jesus. Could he have known what Jesus meant by a fisher of men? Highly unlikely! But Simon had a motive, to stay close to Jesus, and that was enough for him.

Be very conscious this week of areas you struggle to motivate yourself in. Maybe it's household chores, assignments, spending time with particular people, cutting down on screen time, serving others: whatever it is, stop and ask yourself where your heart is at, and more importantly, what's your motive for doing the right thing in each situation. Let that drive you forwards.

 [When You Don't Feel Like It \(Fr Mike Schmitz\)](#)

 [Lord I Need You - Matt Maher](#)

To the Heights Youth Resource also available

Check
this
out



DISCERNING HEARTS

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The Chosen Season 1 Episode 4: Jesus Calls Simon

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