



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about Jesus starting to gather together the first Christian community.

Christian communities (just like families) are never perfect – even Jesus' closest disciples weren't always the ideal set of people. However, everyone works better with others in community.

Our schools and parish communities were founded to be places of love, friendship, security and inclusiveness.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

People in the past answered Jesus' call to form our Catholic school communities which now welcome and support us and our children. Now it's our turn to continue the work, to build on and develop the warm and loving community of our school – together.

Enjoy a very special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **COMMUNITY**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) – Parents' Pages – Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023



Hearing that John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." As he was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there, he saw another pair of brothers, James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving their boat and their father, they followed him. Jesus went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Adapted from  
Matt. 4:12-23 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

**Everyone can learn more about this Gospel in Church – all are warmly invited.**

"Dear brothers and sisters, be an active presence in the community." Pope Francis





When we read the Gospels, we see that Jesus gathers round him a community which receives his word, follows it, shares in his journey and becomes his family. Jesus came for everyone and with him we, and our children, will never be on our own.



# 1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)

One day, as Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Peter and his brother Andrew. They were fishing and Jesus called to them, "Follow me. From now on you will be gathering people instead of fish." Straightaway they left their nets and followed Jesus. Then Jesus saw two other brothers, James and John, who were also fishermen. When Jesus called them to follow him, they were in a boat with their father, Zebedee. But they too followed Jesus at once.



**What did Jesus say the fishermen would be gathering from now on? Which word stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about?**

# 2 Wednesday's Word is ...

## COMMUNITY

# 3 Loving God & Each Other

"Whatever gifts and talents we are given by God are to be shared with the entire community." *St Baldwin of Canterbury*

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus starts to form a community. Ask your child what the word 'community' means to them. Which communities do they belong to (e.g. family, cubs, brownies, football, etc.)? Another word we could use for our school is 'community'. What does your child enjoy most about their school community? Can they remember who made them feel really welcome when they started school?

"The family is a community of love where each of us learns to relate to others and to the world around us." *Pope Francis*

Each of you name at least one thing that other family members are good at, which could help strengthen the family community. Without our own unique contribution to our community, something valuable will be missing. How can we also use our gifts for the good of the different communities we belong to? Perhaps we can: join a school team; welcome new people into our community; volunteer to use a gift or skill to help out with a project; join with others to organise a family fun night at school; support a fundraising event.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for our school and parish communities. Please help me say 'Yes' to you, and enrich the communities to which I belong. Amen.

## Gospel Gallery

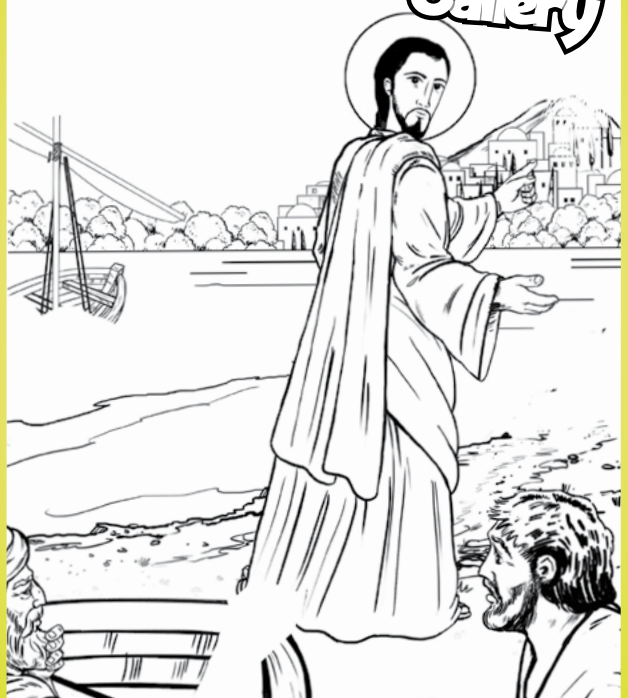
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### WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- GALILEE
- FISHERMEN
- LEFT NETS
- FOLLOWED JESUS
- GATHERING PEOPLE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Cross out the letters **u n m** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**wuemren camlulend Fomlunlow uhinsm**

Peter and \_\_\_\_\_ brother Andrew \_\_\_\_\_ fishing and Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to them, "\_\_\_\_\_ me".

Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear Jesus calling the fishermen to follow him. Today, Jesus calls people, like you and me, to help him - to build his community - a community built on love.



Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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