

## 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Faith is an adventure. That is the message of today's Gospel. That God will bless us in unimaginable ways, if we dare to believe.

### Today's Readings

#### Isaiah 6:1-8

A vision of God's holiness and glory left the prophet Isaiah feeling wretchedly unclean. Nevertheless, Isaiah became God's messenger.

#### 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Paul, to whom the resurrected Jesus appeared, also felt unworthy. By God's grace, he changed from persecuting the Church to becoming an apostle.

#### Luke 5:1-11

Peter was another who felt unfit to be in the company of Jesus. Assured of God's favour, he was sent out to become a fisher of people.



"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people".

Jesus gives his disciples a new job: They won't be searching for fish anymore. They'll be searching for people; they're going to become, what Jesus calls, "fishers of men."

I'd like just to imagine Peter remembering that morning of the day he made his first move to follow Jesus

That morning began like any other. I was tired after a night's work fishing - a bit browned off at not catching anything at all. I still had to free the nets of weeds and so on and then fold them away.

"I can tell you I wasn't in the mood to meet anyone before I'd had a bite of breakfast. Then, after a good sleep I might have felt a bit human again. James and John knew well enough to keep their distance. And Andrew? My brother? Where'd he got to?

"Then voices. There were people coming out of the morning mist. So early in the day? It was Jesus, that teacher from Nazareth. That would probably explain Andrew's disappearance. But you'd think he might have told me.

"Jesus was a good man; I think I'd call him 'a man of God'. He'd healed my mother-in-law of a raging fever. Now just seeing him seemed to calm me down.

"A crowd came with him; they were pushing forward and so he sat on the prow of my boat. I felt pleased that he chosen my boat to be his pulpit. There was something about him; there was a depth, a peace; a kind of inner strength which reached right into people.

"I can see him there so relaxed, dangling his feet in the water, talking away. I felt better by the minute. The crowd didn't show any sign of moving off, so it seemed a good idea when he asked to pull away from shore.

"Then he said to put out my nets! I thought it was a bit daft. There wasn't a fish for miles and it was now daylight. And the thought mending and folding up all the nets again... Funny how landlubbers think you can just throw out a net and it fills up with fish every time. 'Master', I said, 'we've just had a full night's fishing and caught nowt'. Yet he was my guest on the boat so I owed him courtesy, so I said: 'but if you say so,' I said, 'I will pay out the nets.' I did my best to look enthusiastic.

"Suddenly the floats on the nets dipped heavily. The surface erupted into silvery splashes. The weight on the rope was nearly capsizing us.

'James, John come over here; hurry, my nets are tearing.'



“I’d got years of fishing behind me but I’d never seen anything like this; I was as excited as a child. One boat full to the gunwales. Then **two** boats, unbelievable ! Nearly sinking, we really tried to land the lot. Balance was the problem - but we just managed it; not a fish was lost.

“It was only when my feet touched solid ground once more that I came back to reality. Was I dreaming ? No, the fish were there leaping about. What’s happening?

“Who is Jesus? And what am I? I threw myself down before him; I hardly knew what words were coming out. Me, with so much wasted time, so many faults, so many weaknesses. Sin, sin, sin.

“Then I grew conscious of the gentle warmth of his hands. I felt a surging sense of healing. I heard his voice: ‘Don’t be afraid!’

‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said, ‘From now on it’s people you’ll be catching.’

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That voice asks us the same question it asked Isaiah, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for me?”

The Scripture prompts us to answer, “Here I am, Lord; send me.”



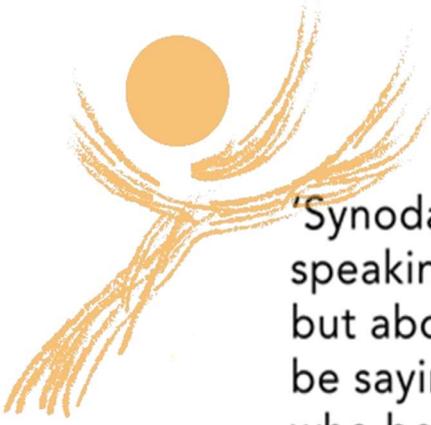
## THE SYNOD

*Pope Francis has launched a worldwide 'synod' process.*

*Synod simply means 'journeying together'.*

*The Holy Father is inviting us to listen deeply to one another and to discern what God is saying to the Church about **how** we 'journey together'. We will have our own synodal pathway, in our parish and within the various communities, united with our Diocese of Brentwood and with every diocese across the world.*

*After national and continental gatherings, the Synod of Bishops will gather in Rome in 2023 to reflect on what has been heard.*



'Synodal dialogue' depends on courage both in speaking and in listening. It is not about debate, but about discerning what the Spirit of God may be saying. Discernment is the attitude of people who believe that God is always present and active in the details of our lives. It relies on the conviction that he will reveal his plans and purposes to us if we make an effort to be attentive. It begins with listening.

## Synod Prayer

### *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.*

*With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;*

*Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.*

*We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.*

*Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor  
partiality influence our actions.*

*Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey  
together to eternal life*

*and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.*

*All this we ask of you,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,*

*forever and ever. Amen.*

### GOSPEL WORDSEARCH

Y	E	R	S	I	N	K	N	I	G	<b>GENNESARET BOATS FISHERMEN NETS CROWD SHORE WATER SINKING KNEES OVERCOME BANK FELL</b> 
A	D	A	E	T	H	T	S	E	N	
P	P	E	E	D	E	U	N	S	I	
H	A	T	W	R	B	N	G	E	K	
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A	R	T	A	S	L	O	N	N	I	
C	A	T	A	F	E	L	L	K	S	
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