

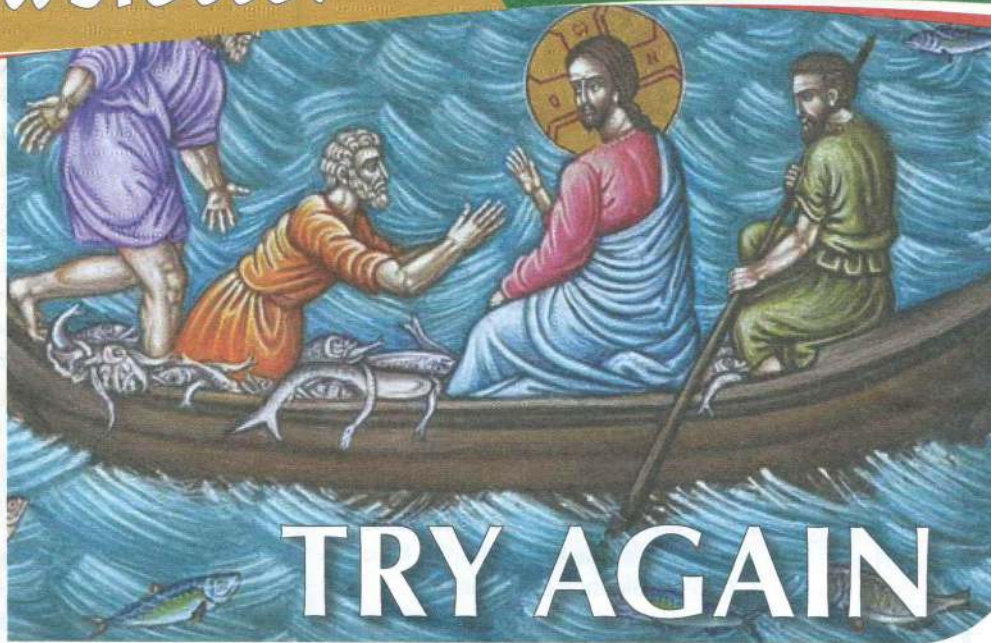
Parish Newsletter

I've been glancing at this gospel for the past three days. The passage has great potential, but I was getting no inspiration. This morning I realised I was living the experience of the disciples, fishing and catching nothing. So, I took the words of the Lord as words to me: 'Try again and see what happens.' I'm not promising you an abundant catch like that of the disciples, but we'll see.

The appearances of Jesus to the disciples after the resurrection transformed them and enabled them to become fearless witnesses to Jesus and his gospel, as we read in the first reading today. At the heart of this witness was their total trust in the presence of God with them and their commitment to promoting the reign of love in the world. This they did in face of opposition, persecution, and sometimes death.

The strange dialogue between Jesus and Peter with the thrice repeated question 'Do you love me?' has many interpretations. Peter, who had denied Jesus three times, is now given the chance of a threefold affirmation of love. The repeated question and answer is also a reminder to us today that true love is not validated by a single proclamation. It involves an ongoing commitment. We believe that love is the most powerful force for good in the world.

It is through love that our lives bear the most important fruit, yet at times it may seem that it is fruitless. We do



TRY AGAIN

our best and it is discouraging when the results are not what we had hoped. Jesus had that same experience. Apart from the rejection of his message by some of the leaders of his day, his outreach of love was also rejected by people who were well-disposed to him. A rich young man who came for advice rejected it when it was given. Judas – one of his closest friends – betrayed him, and Peter denied that he knew him. Jesus knew disappointment and yet nobody would claim his life was worthless. His life, lived in love, has brought hope, meaning, comfort, strength and peace to countless millions.

Jesus does not promise us that each time we reach out in love to another, our outreach will be welcomed. Relationships can be complicated. Yet Jesus does promise us that when our lives are motivated by care for others, our lives will be fruitful even when they

include some failures. So, when you feel discouraged listen to Jesus whispering in your ear: 'Try again'.



Reflection

Remember people who encouraged you to try again when you felt discouraged. Perhaps on some occasions you were pleasantly surprised by the results.



Lesson

Followers of Jesus do not live only for themselves but for others, trusting in God to help them along the way



Prayer

O Lord, come o my help; change my mourning into dancing.

O Lord, my God, I will thank you for ever.

for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command ...
Our Father, who art in heaven...
Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Lord Jesus Christ, ...
Amen.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins ...
Behold the Lamb of God, ...
Lord, I am not worthy ...

Communion Antiphon (Cf. Jn 21:12-13)
Jesus said to his disciples: Come and eat.
And he took bread and gave it to them, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion
Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,
and grant, we pray,
that those you were pleased to renew by
eternal mysteries
may attain in their flesh
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



This Week (2-8 May)

- 2 M St Athanasius, bishop and doctor
- 3 T SS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES
- 4 W St Conleth, bishop
- 5 T Blessed Edmund Rice, religious; St Asaph
- 6 F St Beuno
- 7 S St Anselm
- 8 S FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

