

Fifth Sunday of the Year

The marvellous catch

INTRODUCTION

Peter and his friends James and John had been fishing all night without any luck! Jesus told them to sail out again and cast their nets one more time. Listen to hear what happened!

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read these words (*cf St Paul's Letter to the Philippians 2:15*):

You are the children of God who shine out in the darkness like the stars which light up the sky at night.

SORRY

Let us spend a few quiet moments talking to God in our hearts. If we have made mistakes, we ask for forgiveness and make our peace with him again.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1:
Share your word with us.

GOSPEL (*cf Luke 5:1-11*)

Jesus was preaching by the Sea of Galilee, when crowds of people gathered all around to listen to him. Jesus noticed two fishing boats tied up near by. He climbed aboard one which belonged to Peter and asked him to sail a little way from the shore. When Jesus had finished talking to the crowds he turned to Peter and said, 'Sail out to the deep water and cast out your nets.'

'Master, we have been fishing all night and have caught nothing,' Peter said, 'but I will do whatever you say.'

That day they caught so many fish that their nets were ready to burst. Peter and his friends James and John were filled with wonder by this marvellous sight and fell to their knees. Then Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid; come and follow me.' So they left their boats and became his disciples.

DISCUSSION

Why did Jesus climb into Peter's boat? – So many people had come to listen to Jesus teaching that there was little space left on the shore. Many of the crowd could not see or hear Jesus properly, so he sailed a little way from the shore.

After he had finished speaking, what did Jesus tell Peter to do? – Jesus told Peter to sail out to deeper water and to lower his fishing nets into the sea.

Why did Peter not think this was a good idea? – Peter, James and John had been fishing all night but had caught nothing. They were probably feeling tired and disappointed, and eager to get home.

What did Peter do? – Peter did as Jesus had said, and sailed out to the deeper water where he cast out his nets. Although he felt unsure, Peter already trusted Jesus, and was ready to do what he asked.

Did Peter and his friends manage to catch any fish that day? – When they began to pull in their nets, they had caught so many fish that their nets were ready to burst.

How do you think they felt? – They were probably overjoyed by this marvellous catch after their long and disappointing night's fishing. They were amazed by what they had seen, and they began to realise that Jesus was no ordinary man.

What did Jesus ask them to do when they returned to shore? – Jesus invited these fishermen to follow him and become his disciples. They left their boats and nets, and went with him, to help Jesus tell the people about the Good News of God's love.

ACTIVITY

Using an old box help the children to make an underwater scene of the Sea of Galilee

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
you called Peter and his friends
to follow you,
and you have also called each of us.
Help us to trust in you, as Peter did,
and make our faith grow stronger every day.