

Worthy to make disciples

As a university student, the local priest and chaplain made me president of the student Catholic Society. I was extremely flattered, but hesitated to accept. I didn't feel worthy. I wasn't sure about what the church taught, and if I believed it all. However, being invited made me believe that I might have something to offer, and greater confidence that I could be a better person.

When I graduated university, I worked for a couple of years in that parish to discern a vocation to the priesthood. I asked the priest why he chose me to be president of the Catholic Society. I assumed he would shower me with praise and affirmation. Being an honest man, he said, "There was no one else!"

Do you ever feel like your faith life just stays in church on Sundays? Does anyone ever wonder if or how you might live out your faith even more in your families, work, school, travelling in the car, on the bus, train, in the supermarket, or with friends?

Jesus makes you **worthy to make disciples**. In Mt 28:18-19, Jesus said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples." The job of making disciples is not for priests and religious. The job of making disciples is for you! Priests and religious are not to '*do* the work of the baptised', but to "*equip* the baptised for work" (Eph 4:12).

Making disciples is urgent. In the last several hundred years, people would 'come to church'. For the first time on record, the UK census shows that over 50% of the population defines itself as non-Christian. The church today needs to 'go to people', to help people meet Jesus.

We make disciples by: **reminding** ourselves of the gospel, being made **worthy**, and working as a **team**.

Remind – 1 Cor: "I would **remind** you, brothers and sisters, of the gospel I preached to you ..." Don't forget your story of Jesus. **Remind** yourself of

when you first met Jesus personally. **Remind** yourself of the way in which he has changed your life. **Remind** yourself of what difference he has made and is making in your life. People can be sceptical or organised religion (i.e. the church). However, they can be convinced by your personal story of Jesus.

Worthy – “‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.’ And Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.’” Peter was unworthy. Jesus’ call for him to make disciples made him worthy. Like St. Peter, you may feel unworthy. Like St. Peter, you may be aware of your sins, mistakes, and wounds. If/when someone invites you into a parish ministry or event, don’t let your feelings of unworthiness stop you. It might be Jesus calling you. There’s a saying, “you’re not called because you’re worthy. You’re worthy because you’re called.” [Repeat].

Team – “‘[they] were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.’” Simon-Peter didn’t catch the fish alone. He needed partners, a **team**. You don’t have to make disciples alone. Make disciples as a **team**. Alpha is a series over several weeks where people can get curious about the bigger questions of life, Christian faith, and meaning, in a relaxed way over food and drink, video, and open and honest sharing. We hope to start after Easter. The reason we do alpha in this parish is for non-Church goers meet Jesus. And it is also to train us as to help people meet Jesus as a **team**.

Remind yourself of the difference Jesus has made in your life.

Jesus’ call for you to make disciples makes you **worthy**.

Try alpha, and make disciples as a **team**.

Prayer

Lord, thank you that you make me **worthy to make disciples**, to help people meet you.

Help me **remind** myself about meeting and accepting **Jesus** personally.

Thank you that you make me **worthy** to make disciples.

Help me partner with others to make disciples as a **team**.

For the salvation of the world, and the renewal of the church.

In Jesus' name, amen!