

HOMILY – PUTTING OUT INTO THE **DEEP WATER** – 7 FEBRUARY 2016

Last Sunday's Gospel highlighted the courageous love of Jesus, even though people turned away from him in his own home town.

They even tried to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped away.

Now we have this beautiful passage, full of hope, of invitation.

Can you picture Jesus standing there at the lake?

How does the scenery look to you? Imagine it.

Put into your picture, people around Jesus, keen to hear his every word.

The Gospel tells us "the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God".

How can we be more eager to hear the word of God, this coming Lent?

Picture Jesus getting into Simon's boat, going a little way from the shore, sitting and teaching the crowd from the boat.

And we ask ourselves –

What does Jesus ask of me so that He can share the Good News of God?

What do I offer, that Jesus can use?

Perhaps it is my time, like Simon gave.

What is the boat that I share with Jesus?

My car in bringing someone to Mass? Accompanying someone to the Doctor?

The movie SPOTLIGHT has been recommended on our Parish Facebook page.

Perhaps a group of us could accompany each other to see this compelling and challenging movie about church abuse in Boston.

Challenging for us too, because of church abuse and cover-ups here in Australia.

Jesus asks us to go that step further, as he asks Peter to put out into DEEP WATER.

Simon is very tired after spending the whole night working and catching nothing.

We too can say why bother and we too can provide excuses.

Yet Simon and friends take up the invitation of Jesus to TRUST him.

Picture them taking their boats back out into the sea.

Up on the Parish Facebook <http://tinyurl.com/gueytxr> are the recommendations of the health team on CHILDREN in immigration DETENTION.

There is also a link to the full report. <http://tinyurl.com/gmto3qt>

This is about children.

Do we say why bother? Do we say that it is too complex, too big an issue?

Or do we pray about it, and set out into the deep to find a solution?

Let us ask God to help us find a solution, respecting human dignity, mercy and justice.

The Gospel tells us that, because so many fish were caught, they had to signal their partners to come and help.

Picture the partners coming to help.

During this Year of Mercy, who are our partners?

Who are we calling upon to share our blessings?

Our Lenten Project Compassion will be one of the ways.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our 40 days of Lent.
It is a journey. The ash is prepared.
The prophet Isaiah says in the 1st Reading,

“Here I am, send me”.

Isaiah is ready for the journey.

In today’s Gospel, Simon Peter, faced with the overwhelming generosity of Jesus, recognises his own faults and tells Jesus that he is a sinful person.

Yet Jesus still invites him on a journey, a journey of faith that will change his life; a journey of discovery; a journey of love and companionship.

Let us enter this journey even more fully over Lent, open to the Holy Spirit in this Year of Mercy.

Let us move away from the shallow, and put out into the deep, not alone, but guided by Jesus.

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – Homily – Putting Out Into the Deep Water – 7 February 2016]