

**Thought for the week**  
**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**24th January, 2021**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
our Divine Physician,  
we ask you to guard and protect us  
and all people from the  
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,  
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,  
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,  
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,  
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,  
grant them success;

For those afraid,  
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,  
may you turn the evil of disease  
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your  
infinite mercy.  
Amen.

In today's Gospel we hear the famous calling of the apostles with the words, *'Follow me.'* This invitation is alive today as Jesus continues to call us, his disciples, to *'Follow me.'*

Everyone has been called first and foremost into an intimate relationship with Jesus, to walk alongside him as the first disciples did on the beaches of Galilee. Peter, whose calling we hear today, would later write in 1 Peter 5:7

*'Unload all your worries on to him, since he is looking after you.'*

To be a disciple of Jesus is to listen to the words of Jesus, in scripture, through the teaching of the Church and in quiet contemplation and to speak to him in honest conversation during prayer.

As disciples of Christ, we are invited to live our life of mission, or vocation, through the work we are called to and the relationships we are in. For myself, I am discerning my possible call to the priesthood with the help of the Church in the seminary. At the heart of formation is the call to live as the authentic person God has called me to be. This poses a deep challenge because of my desire to be in control, my reliance on shows of outer self-image rather than acceptance of my true inner-self, and the significant impact that the world has had upon me.

Like the fishermen in Galilee mending their nets, the call to be his disciple often requires leaving something behind. For me in formation I am beginning to see the broken nets I have been trying to mend during my life rather than trusting in the Lord and letting them go. It's a deep challenge, but the challenge lies in trusting in God and letting go of my agenda. The Carmelite vice-rector of the seminary shared a one-word piece of advice to us all at the beginning of our formation and I pass on to you:

*'SURRENDER.'*



## Prayers Please

Please pray for Fr. Giles Goward, former Parish priest of St Anne's who is unwell.

Please pray for Eugenie Micotti who died last Thursday.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has been readmitted to hospital due to the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



**Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;**

Philomena Smith, William Tillotson, Frederick Wareham, Alan Graves, Rev. Canon Frederick Smythe, John Cano, Keiran Cotter, Briget Gurney, Carlos Ramirez, May McGrath, Anne Marie Agnes Chancellor-Wheale, Eugene Herbert, Denis and Nora Fogarty, Judith Over.