

Intercessions – Sunday 6 February 2022

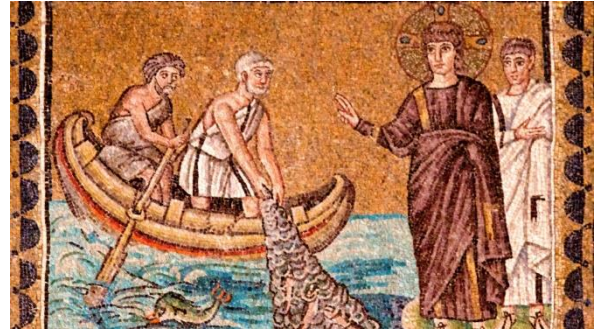


Take a moment to imagine the scene, Jesus standing on the shore of the lake looking out at the boats.

You are out in one of the boats mending your nets. Hear the water, lapping against the side of the boat. Feel the gentle movement of the boat bobbing on the water. Feel the coarse cords of the net in your hands as you mend it. Hear the hubbub of the crowd gathered around Jesus.

Jesus speaks. He asks you to put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch. How do you feel about what Jesus says to you?

Heavenly Father, we know that you call us but that sometimes we let our daily concerns about work, money, security, keeping up with social expectations; things that get in the way of answering your call to us. We bring before you in a moment of quiet the things which get stuck in our nets, which hold us back from answering your call.



Focus again on the net you are mending, making it complete so it can do its job. Where do we need to mend our nets so they are complete? Spend a moment of quiet thinking about relationships you want to mend with family, friends or work colleagues.

Heavenly Father, help us to see where our nets are broken, worn out, and to mend them so that we can do your work and spread the good news of the Gospel.

You are back on the boat, you have put out to the deep water, uncertain about what will happen. Imagine the net being cast out from the boat; what will you catch? What do you hope for?

Heavenly Father, as we cast out our nets, help us to care for those around us, to show your love in all that we do. We hold in our nets those who are ill at this time, those who are grieving, lonely or depressed.



The nets are cast, what will happen next? Do we worry about how we respond to your calling? That we are not fit or worthy or capable of responding?

Heavenly Father, you give us hope through your Word and the life of your Son. When we are sinful, you make us clean; when we feel powerless, you give us strength; when we despair, you give us hope; when we feel overwhelmed, you are there to protect and guide us. Help us to lift up our eyes and turn them to you.

You have waited patiently after casting the net. The net is full and bursting at the seams! Imagine the effort and excitement as you pull together with everyone on the boat to bring in the catch.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that your love for us knows no bounds; you provide us with all that we need. Help us to play our part in looking after your creation, to help and support those in need, to provide a voice for those who have none, to answer you call and show your love in all that we do.



Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**