



**St  
Matthew's  
Holland  
Park Weekly  
Bulletin 9th  
February 2025**

*This week's Revd. Morris' message: **I wonder what you may be 'hooked on' at the moment ?***

Luke is the only Gospel author that relates the calling of Peter, James and

John in depth by including the miraculous fish catch and Jesus' call to become 'Soul Fishers'. What dramatic scenes are captured. Let's put ourselves into Peter's shoes...

Our small family fishing boat and its' exhausted crew has had a hard and spectacularly unsuccessful night on the Lake. Usually, they have a decent catch - but not last night! The family's meagre savings will take a hit today - we will need to tighten our belts. I wonder what I may have done wrong in my preparation? Or is it just bad luck? Or something worse - am I being punished? Anyways, we have closed up shop and are attending to the last back breaking task of cleaning our nets before going home to get some well deserved sleep.

Oh no, here comes that bloke who healed my Mother in Law recently, accompanied by a huge crowd - now he wants my boat! *What ...to become a pulpit?* I'm going to have to clean it all up again afterwards! Oh well, I guess I owe him something for the old girl's healing ...

What now? ***Go out again to fish? What would a carpenter know about fishing?*** I tell you it's the wrong time .. and the wrong place to fish! Oh well, if He says so - he seems to have the knack of performing the miraculous - and that is exactly what it will take!

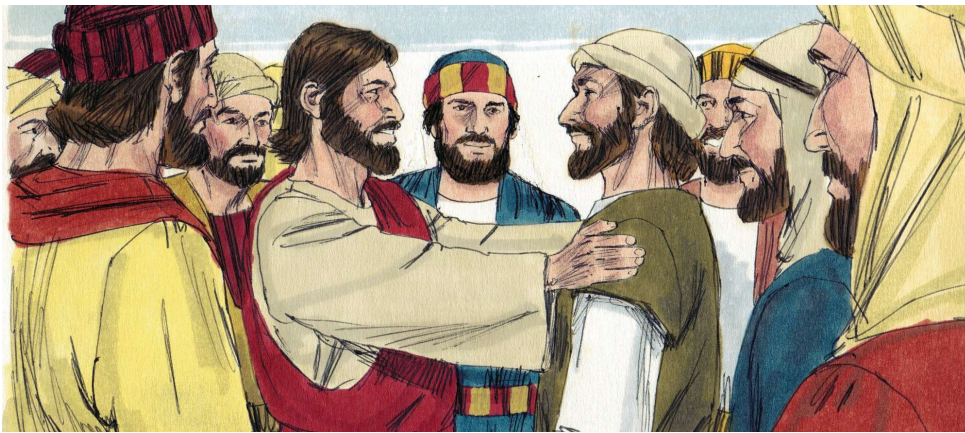
***What is this? Fish Galore! Yahoo!*** James, John - quickly, let's take all that we can!

***Hang on*** ....That bloke just did another miracle - again, right before my eyes! This is God stuff right here! Who am I to be here, see this ...and *be enriched by it? I know exactly the sort of man I am ...* and I'm not the sort that He would wish to be around if He knew who I really was ...and if He did get to know all those things I did and thought ... I am so ashamed ... *What could Jesus do to me? What punishment would He decree?*

*But ... Jesus said : **Don't be afraid ... From now on you will be 'fishing for souls' ...***  
*" And as soon as they landed, they left everything and went with him" ...*

***Well, what does this all mean for us today?***

The Greek word for fishing or "catching" used here by Luke ('zogron') is rarely used in the New Testament. *It means "to catch alive"* **Peter, the fisherman, had himself become well and truly 'Hooked' on Jesus.** *Jesus didn't ask Peter to go away, do penance, sign on to a Cod of Beliefs and Conduct, then clean up his act and come back in a week or*



*two. He just said ... come as you are and be with me. Peter's encounter with Jesus literally changed his life ... and his vocation .. entirely. Peter experienced in Jesus a Divine encounter which embraced him 'just as he was', accepted him and offered him a new way of being ... simply*

living with Jesus, learning His ways and seeking to follow wherever He leads... and helping others to get 'hooked on Jesus' too. ***But the purpose of this type of 'catching' wasn't so that 'the catch' would be killed ... but rather that they are to then become truly alive .. the people that they were meant to be and become!***

I wonder if you are currently feeling *as if your nets always seem to come up empty?* I wonder what or who you may be 'hooked on' at the moment? I wonder if you are ready to be more fully 'caught up' in Jesus? ... and perhaps also ready to share your faith in a way that it may be 'caught' by those you love and meet? ***Gospel reading: Luke 5: 1-11*** Some resources to dig deeper: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/narrative-lectionary/great-catch-of-fish/commentary-on-luke-51-11-2>.

***Upcoming Parish Activities: Midweek service*** Wednesday 10:30 am; ***OpShop*** Thursday 9am - Noon; ***Lenten Bible Studies*** commence around Ash Wednesday 5/3/25 - Wednesday night @7 pm [ see Heather] ; Thursday night 6:30 p.m by Zoom [ See Margaret or Randal]; Friday Morning 10 am [See Revd Morris]; ***Liturgy Committee Meeting*** after service 23/2/25- all welcome; ***World Day of Prayer*** 7/3/25 [ See Janice or Susan] ; ***Church Working Bee*** 15/3/25 8am.

***Today's Notices Highlights: AGM #2 16/2/25*** Reports to Revd Morris ASAP; ***Behind the scenes thx:*** Bottle Donors and Deliverers ***Readings for Next Sunday: Patricia:*** Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; ***Mary:*** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26.

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***Parish website :*** <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com>/***Parish Private Facebook site :*** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142> ; ***Public Site:*** <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsHollandPark> ; ***Tipper's Treasure's Facebook site:*** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>.

***ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:*** We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.