



We are called

Church services

Services are streamed live at www.3churches.org

Saturday, 6pm: Vigil Mass of Sunday

9.30am: Sunday Mass – with children’s liturgy in term time

9.30am: Tuesday Mass

9.30am: Thursday Mass

Wednesday 5 March, 11.30am:
Ash Wednesday Mass

Activities (in the parish centre)

- Monday, 9.30 – 11am:
Baby and Toddler Group
- Wednesday, 11am – 1.30pm:
Welcome Space
- Friday, 6.30pm: Junior Club in term time (School Years 3–6)
- Saturday 8 March, 11am – 1pm; 2 – 4pm: Sustainable Clothes and Books Market
- Thursday 13 March, 7pm for 7.30pm start: Community Quiz Night

For further information, contact Christ the King’s parish office (phone 2075 3945, email llanishen@rcadc.org) or Canon Matthew Jones (phone 2075 2389, email matthew.jones@rcadc.org) or visit the website at www.3churches.org

The church and parish centre are located at Newborough Avenue, Llanishen, CF14 5DB.



Canon Matthew (back, centre) and pilgrims overlooking the Sea of Galilee at the place of the Sermon on the Mount

What is our calling in life? For each person, it is different. Most of us are called to be part of a family, a community, a workplace. For believers, God’s call embraces all of these and more.

At a recent Sunday Mass the scripture readings focused on three responses to God’s call. The Old Testament reading related the calling of the prophet Isaiah (chapter 6). He protested his unworthiness but, having experienced God’s healing, responded: ‘Here I am! Send me.’ St Paul, in his letter to the church in Corinth (chapter 15), referred to himself as ‘the least of the Apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God’. His calling came when God struck him down as he journeyed to Damascus.

The third reading recounted Jesus’s calling of the first apostles. Luke’s Gospel (chapter 5) describes the fishermen mending their nets on the shore of the lake of Galilee. They have fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus gets into one of the boats and asks Peter to take Him a little way out from the shore so that He can teach the people who have gathered.

Then Jesus, a carpenter not a fisherman, commands them to go out into the deep and cast their nets again. It must have seemed an irrational command, but they obeyed and caught so many fish that their nets were

breaking and a second boat had to help. Peter went down on his knees before Jesus saying ‘depart from me, for I am a sinful man’. Jesus’s response was to call him and his partners, James and John, saying: ‘Do not be afraid, from now on you will be fishers of men.’

Like Isaiah and Paul, they saw themselves unworthy but they left everything (including their valuable catch of fish) and followed Jesus.

Some Christians experience a dramatic moment of calling. But for most Christians it doesn’t happen that way. It is a gradual process as we struggle to respond day by day, acknowledging we are unworthy and making mistakes along the way. Stepping out ‘into the deep’, as Isaiah, Paul and the apostles did, is a great challenge. We like to be in control and know where our lives are going. Surrendering to God, turning our lives to His service, takes courage. But just as Jesus reassured the apostles ‘do not be afraid’, we believe He walks with us.

On Ash Wednesday – 5 March – we start the season of Lent. We are signed with ashes as a reminder of our mortality and invited to ‘Repent and believe in the Gospel’. Then, during the 40 days leading up to Easter, we reflect on the call to follow Jesus and how to respond to the command to go out into the deep.

Elizabeth Taylor,
Christ the King Parish Advisory Council