

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Acts 5: 27-32, 40-41, Apocalypse 5: 11-14, John 21:1-19*

Simon Peter said, *'I'm going fishing'*. They replied, *'We'll come with you'*  
And so, Peter and six others have **returned to the sea**.

- They have left Jerusalem.
- They have come home to the Sea of Tiberias, **the place where it all began for Peter** which means, the decision to go back fishing takes Peter to a life before he met Jesus,
- ❖ which also means: Discipleship // the upper room // the cross // the empty tomb and // the house with its locked doors [LAST SUNDAY'S GOSPEL] **are some 80 miles to the South**.

But if we think a little deeper,

**Q: is Peter really there trying to catch fish?**

**Q: Or is he actually fishing for answers.?**

The whole point is that

- a) we can **leave the places** (Jerusalem is 80 miles away)
  - b) we can leave and **move away from the people** of our life but there is only one thing we can never do:
    - we can never escape **from ourselves** or
    - we can never escape **our life experiences**.
- ❖ Wherever you go, there you are.

Peter may have escaped Jerusalem, but he **cannot escape from the three years of discipleship** eg:

- the last supper // the arrest // a charcoal fire // denials // a crowing rooster.
- He cannot leave behind the cross, the empty tomb, the house with his doors locked tight, the echoes of **"Peace be with you."**

So you can see, yes, Peter is handling fishing nets in the Sea of Tiberias but he is far from **targeting the fish – far from catching fish**.

- To say the truth, his mind is not really there: no wonder all night long they catch nothing

➤ The Peter we have is actually one **haunted looking for answers!**

➤ It is a Peter **fishing for answers**.

Q: What have I done? Q: What were those three years about?

Q: Who was Jesus? Q: Where is he? Q: Who am I?

Q: What will I do now? Q: Where will I go?

Q: What will happen to me?

Q: How on earth would you expect Peter to catch fish **if he is struggling**,

- searching for meaning // looking for a way forward,
- looking for a place in life.

Peter is **dark-night-fishing**.

We have all spent time in a dark-night-fishing;

- asking the same questions as Peter,
- looking for our place in life,
- seeking peace, and
- in some sense, seeking understanding and meaning.

More often than not, dark night fishing happens in the context of the **failures // losses // and sorrows** of our lives.

**NB:** This kind of thing happens when we come face to face with

- a) the things we have done and
  - b) things we have left undone.
- We have all been there, fishing for answers in the darkness.
  - We have been there fishing on the wrong side of the boat.

Q: Which side of the cross are we fishing: the Good Friday side or the the Easter side it?

Let us hear Jesus speak to us:

**"Cast your net to the right side of the boat,"**

Jesus calls us to move **out of error** into **truth**, // **out of sin** into **righteousness**, // out of **death** into **life**.

In so doing we shall see and proclaim, **"It is the Lord,"** and

Emptiness gives way to the abundance of a net full of fish, large ones, a hundred fifty-three of them.

Key message today: ***“Cast your net to the right side of the boat!”***