

Thought for the week
10th February 2019
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings are concerned with God's call. In the first reading Isaiah describes his vision and call from God, but says how unworthy he is. In the second reading Paul reminds the Corinthians of the gospel he announced to them and of his own unworthiness to be an apostle.

The gospel reading from St Luke sees the fishermen, Simon, John and James, leaving their fishing boats to answer their call to follow Jesus. But Isaiah, Paul and Peter (Simon) have something else in common: Each says *'I can't do this, I'm not good enough'* and to each God says *'Yes you can, with my help'!*

We all go through times in our lives when we feel exactly like this. Life can throw seemingly impossible situations at us which make us feel we cannot cope. And it's true we can't do these things on our own, but with God's help we can succeed.

Trusting in God means handing ourselves over to him and allowing him to help and guide us through the mission he has given us. Paul explains that God called him even though he had persecuted the church, but with God on his side he became a steadfast disciple.

Peter started out as a fisherman probably with little education and none of the skill set he thought was needed to be an apostle of Jesus, but God still called him and he became the greatest and first of the apostles.

Whenever we find ourselves having to cope with a seemingly impossible situation we can rest assured God is there with us if only we allow him. I always think of the footprints in the sand prayer which ends:

"..... The Lord said I love you, and I would never leave you during your times of trial and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

A Parishioner