

# Formed in Prayer

*Let us be still  
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.*

Dear Father,  
Be with us as we pray.  
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.  
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.  
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Gospel

John 21:1-19

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord,' Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'

'I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.'

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading?  
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

## Reflection

In this week's Gospel we hear of the meeting of Jesus with his beloved disciples and as is the case with John's narrative, we find Christ's encounter with his disciples around a meal. However, something more profound is revealed later in the passage, something that is often lost in the English translation from the original Greek. In the Greek language there are a number of words used when talking about 'love.' When Jesus asks Peter three times (not coincidental following Peter's denial) if he loves him, he refers to the word Love using 'Agape' (an unconditional love). Peter responds. "Yes Lord I love you – 'Philia' as a mate. Jesus asks him again in 'Agape' – Peter responds a second time "Yes, Lord Philia". Aware that Peter is not able to meet Jesus' response with the Agape unconditional love and call on his life, Jesus changes his question and meets Peter where he is at. Peter do you Love me "Philia' to which Peter responds yes Lord, Philia. A powerful insight into the Love God has for us regardless of where we are at in our own faith journey. God is intent on showing us that he loves us and meets us where we are at and continues to call us into being the person we were created to be in Christ. *(Nathan Galea, Catholic Education, Canberra and Goulburn)*



## Prayer

Dear Lord,  
Thank you for always meeting us where we are at  
and for blessing us with your love.  
Help us in the areas of our life where we fall short of your call.  
But may we never forget that your perfect love casts out all fear.  
Amen