

Closing prayer

Together:
Lord,
bless us with your heavenly gifts,
and in your mercy make us your obedient servants.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(Solemn Blessing for Third Sunday of Easter)

Stewardship link

We can only be good stewards if we are using the gifts that God has given us in accordance with God's plan. We cannot control or predict what the outcome will be, but we can be confident that it will be greater than anything we could have imagined.

To do

Try to spend some time each day this week reflecting on how you are being called to change. Is there something new that you may be being called to do within your family, in the parish or in the wider community?

Is there someone you know who needs an encouraging word from you to make a new decision or to take on a new role?

Take some time to note your responses in your notebook.

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Diocese of Portsmouth Stewardship Reflection 3rd Sunday of Easter Year C

‘Throw the net out to starboard and you’ll
find something.’

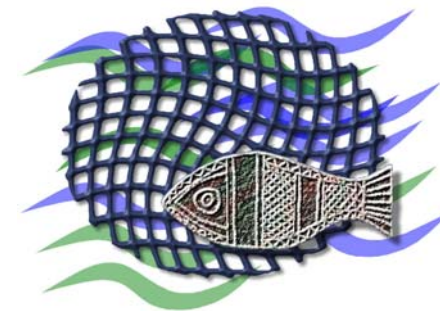
(John 21:6)

Opening prayer

Leader:
Let us pray
that Christ will give us
a share in the glory of his unending life.

Response:
**God our Father,
may we look forward with hope to our resurrection,
for you have made us your sons and daughters,
and restored the joy of our youth.**

(Opening Prayer for Third Sunday of Easter)



To share

What insights have you had in the last week? Is there something in your notebook that you would like to share with others in the group?

To listen

John 21:1-14

To think about

The disciples return to their former activity, fishing. Perhaps they find comfort in the familiar after all the turmoil of Jesus' final days.

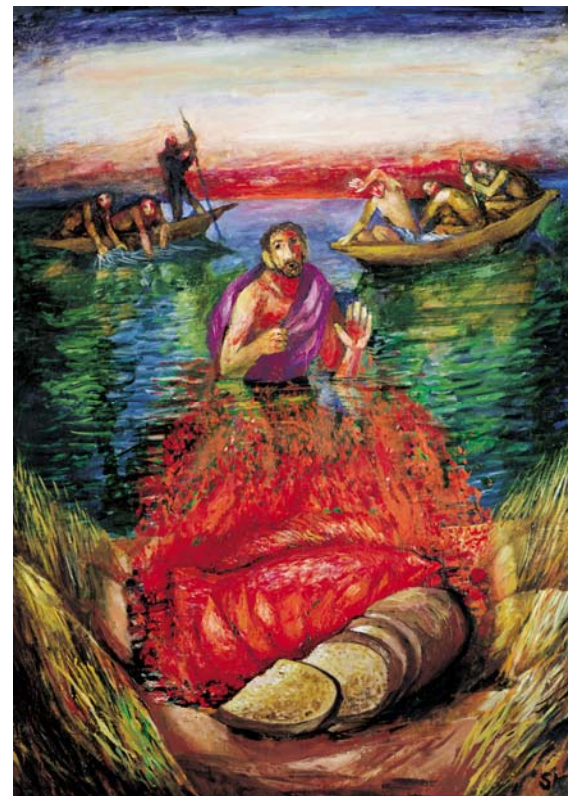
It is almost as though they have been endlessly talking about Jesus, trying to make sense of what they have seen and heard and finally they have run out of steam. So, Peter suggests a fishing trip and the others leap at the chance. And yet they have a fruitless expedition. That is, until they start to follow Jesus' instructions. When they do that, the catch is greater than anything they could ever have imagined.

To reflect on

Sometimes, what turn out to be the greatest gifts for us enter into our lives heavily disguised as burdens, disappointments or dead ends.

Have you ever been surprised that something or someone you dismissed as very unpromising turned out to be extremely significant in your life?

How did this happen?



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To discuss

Sometimes we feel overwhelmed by the rapid changes in the world or in the Church and we want to put the clock back to a time when things were familiar and we knew the routine. In your experience, has that been a fruitful response?

What stops you from embracing change and being willing to try the unknown or the unexpected?

When do you leave it to others to take the initiative?

What is your response to this quotation from Cardinal John Henry Newman: 'To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often'?