



“Some people, to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things... God... never wrote that book with ink.

Instead, He set before your eyes the things that He had made.”

St. Augustine of Hippo

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Psalms 137: 1-8

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 or 15:3-8, 11

Luke 5: 1-11

Simon, however, explains to Jesus that his companions and him had fished the whole night but had caught nothing. But he is willing to do as Jesus says. When they go out to sea, something amazing happens - they catch a very large number of fish. Confronted by this experience, Simon realises that the One in his presence is no ordinary human being. He falls to his knee before Jesus, calling him “Lord” and expresses his sense of unworthiness. Then, he and his companions leave everything and followed Jesus.

To many, the gospel story is about the miracle of the large catch of fish. To others, it is about the conversion of Simon or the call of Simon and his companions to become the disciples of Jesus. Maybe, there is another perspective to the story: “How did Jesus know when and where to lead the fishermen to catch fish?” The usual answers would be, “He knew because he is the Son of God” or “He knew because the world was created through him” and so on.

Could it also be that the human Jesus was very close to nature? In his encyclical *Laudato si*, Pope Francis states that the New Testament speaks about “the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world” (n. 100). The Pope also states that Jesus is able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty in the world “because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder” (n. 97).

After all, Jesus himself was in “full harmony with creation”, that is, he did not set himself above or apart from the world but was fully immersed in creation (n. 98). Therefore, **Jesus wants us too, as his disciples, to have a tangible and loving relationship with the world, that is, with people and with nature.** May we learn from Jesus to be close with people and nature.✦

NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9 February 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE **ECOLOGY – CALLED TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THE URGENT MISSION OF SAVING MOTHER EARTH**

In Harmony with People and Nature

Today’s gospel story is well-known. As Jesus stands by the Lake of Gennesaret, a large crowd gathers around him. To avoid being pushed by the people, Jesus steps into a boat that belongs to Simon. After Jesus has finished speaking to the crowd, he asks Simon to go out fishing.

