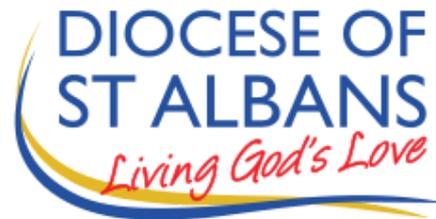


# Live the Challenge



Knowing Christ  
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Lent - Day 11 'filled with rage'  
Monday 13th March 2017

Luke 4 : 28 - 30

When they heard this, all the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him (Jesus) out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

It seems that once people knew that Jesus was one of their own, they began to take exception to his challenging words. Quickly, speaking well of him turned to wanting him gone; amazement turned to rage.

Jesus was loved and hated - and he faced considerable opposition to the good news he came to proclaim. As his disciples, we will face opposition because of our faith, people might even express their anger or even rage to us because of their strong reaction to Jesus Christ.

[Follow this link for the Bible passage](#)

## Reflection

- Ask God to give you a heart big enough to respond well to strong and angry reactions to the Christian faith.

## Respond & Comment

- Pray for those you know who are opposed to faith in Jesus Christ.
- [Make a comment and share your thoughts with others.](#)

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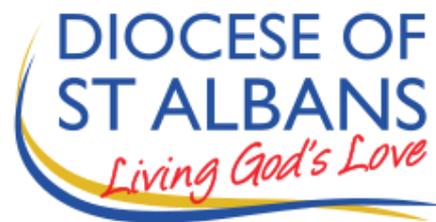
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## Lent - Day 12 'he entered Simon's house'

Tuesday 14th March 2017

Luke 4 : 38 - 39

After leaving the synagogue he (Jesus) entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her. Then he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them.

After teaching in the synagogue Jesus visited Simon's home, the home of a friend. It happened that Simon's mother-in-law was ill and after informing Jesus, he healed her.

[Follow this link for the Bible passage](#)

## Reflection

- Invite Jesus into your home today. Who can you also invite into your home for coffee or a meal?

## Respond & Comment

- Think of someone who would appreciate a visit from you. Why not arrange a date or time with them and offer to pray for them when you meet?
- [Make a comment and share your thoughts with others.](#)

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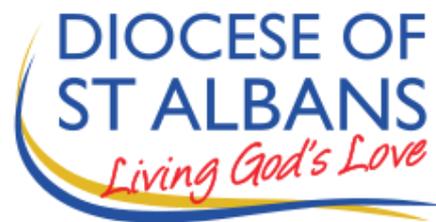
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# Live the Challenge



## Lent - Day 13 'I must proclaim' Wednesday 15th March 2017

Luke 4 : 42 - 43

At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose".

It is quite easy to want to keep Jesus to ourselves. His character, love and goodness are so wonderful that at times it can be hard to share him with others, and we can try (like those in today's reading) to prevent him from being in other places.

If this can be true of individuals, it can also be true of churches. We can enjoy

worshipping Jesus in our congregations so much that we neglect to share him with others in our communities, towns, villages and cities. But Jesus' response to this is clear, 'I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God to other cities also.' (4:43)

[Follow this link for the Bible passage](#)

## Reflection

- Will you ask God to increase your own and your church's willingness to share Christ with others?

## Respond & Comment

- Take a walk through your place of work, estate, neighbourhood or town and pray that word about Jesus would spread there.
- [Make a comment and share your thoughts with others.](#)

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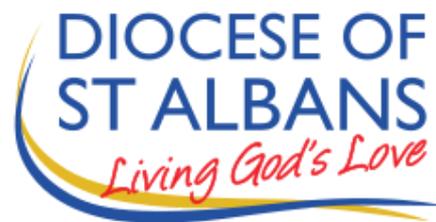
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Lent - Day 14 'pressing in'  
Thursday 16th March 2017

Luke 5 : 1

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God.

Here Luke tells us that the crowd were eager to hear the word of God. Today, there are times when people come in search of God, perhaps through bereavement or crisis, or things offered by the church such as Christenings, Alpha courses or services at Christmas or Easter.

[Follow this link for the Bible passage](#)

## Reflection

- How can you be more hospitable to those who come to church in search of God?

## Respond & Comment

- Who can you contact who attended church at one of the Christmas services? Why not invite them to have a coffee with you or invite them to one of the Easter services.
- [Make a comment and share your thoughts with others.](#)

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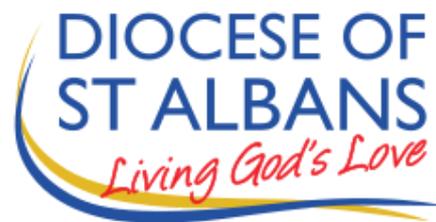
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## Lent - Day 15 'we have worked all night and caught nothing'

Friday 17th March 2017

Luke 5 : 4 - 6

When he had finished speaking, he [Jesus] said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long, but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.

As with the first disciples, sometimes it feels like we labour in vain - work hard to communicate the good news with no success or to little effect. But like Simon Peter and his friends, are we willing to follow the instruction of Jesus to fish in a different place - to work or minister in a different part of the community or to try something new?

[Follow this link for the Bible passage](#)

## Reflection

- Spend some time with God, and prayerfully think and talk with Him about any parts of your Christian witness which seem to be unfruitful at the moment.

## Respond & Comment

- Thank God for the encouragement to the fisherman in today's Bible reading.
- What new thing will you try during Lent to communicate the good news of Jesus to someone else?
- [Make a comment and share your thoughts with others.](#)

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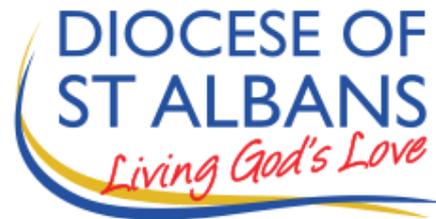
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Lent - Day 16 'he saw their faith'  
Saturday 18th March 2017

Luke 5 : 18 - 20

Just then some men came, carrying a paralysed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles in the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you."

The paralysed man found God's forgiveness through the faith of his friends. They stopped at nothing to bring their friend to Jesus.

[Follow this link for the Bible passage](#)

Reflection

- Ask God to help you to be persistent in helping others to know Christ.

## Respond & Comment

- Who will you demonstrate this kind of faith for? Which friend, colleague or loved one will you persistently and lovingly try to bring to Jesus, so that they might know the reality of his love at work in their lives?
- [Make a comment and share your thoughts with others.](#)

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