



Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!

From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!

#1, February 2016: “Fishing and Life”

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1 “Fishing and Life”.

February 7th, 1st Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 5: 1 – 11

Reflection: “When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing”

It must have been that Jesus knew fishing well. In the Gospels there are many references to fish and fishing. Ichthys, the Greek word-symbol for fish, became the Christian symbol for Jesus Christ by which early Christians recognised one another. Fishing was a major part of the economy of Galilee where Jesus began his ministry. Ancient historian, Josephus, recorded that in the first century, 230 fishing boats regularly worked in the Sea of Galilee. Simon Peter and his partners, James and John, sons of Zebedee, were fishermen, used to earning a good living. When they met Jesus, he so attracted them that they left their fishing business and became his followers. It can be helpful to think about this context when reflecting on the meaning of Jesus’ teaching for us today.

Fact File: : The world’s oceans, lakes and rivers are under threat from over-fishing and plastic pollution. The World Wildlife Fund says that 90% of the world’s fisheries are already fully exploited or overfished. Plastics, including balloons and drink and food related products end up inside fish, killing and maiming them and eventually getting into the human food chain.

Learn More: Read “Threats to Oceans and Coasts”, <http://goo.gl/8c4VLP>
Learn about Marine Sanctuaries. <http://www.marineconservation.org.au/>

Take Action: Each individual, family and community group can take action to make a difference. Don’t let balloons go! Clean up water ways when you visit them. Refuse products containing micro plastics, such as shower gels. Get involved in Clean Up Australia Day on March 6th. Support the protection of Marine Sanctuaries.

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