If you follow me, it's people you'll catch, says Jesus in today's gospel. We all agree that we want to follow Jesus and come closer to God. But why are we so shy about fishing for others? Why do we find it hard to try and bring others to Christ?

Is it a cultural thing? Have we bought into the great deception that it's not the done thing to parade our faith on our sleeve? Yet if our faith is the single most important thing about our whole lives, how can we think of wearing it in our pocket? If our Christian belief is the one thing that makes sense of our existence, that provides us with the wherewithal to cope with what life throws at us, then how can we think of keeping it to ourselves and not trying to get others to experience it?

Don't talk about religion or politics, the saying goes. But if religion is about the ultimate meaning of life and politics is about how we organise it, then not to talk about either of them condemns us to the pleasantries of surface living. Yet life's issues are deeper than the weather, and faith's issues touch the core of reality.

Could it be that we're afraid of talking to others about our faith because we think we will be shown to be lacking? Is it because we feel ashamed and embarrassed because religious people are often caricatured as cranks in the media? Is it because we don't want to disturb people? Would we not disturb someone whose coat was on fire? Would we never want to follow me, it's people you'll catch, says Jesus in today's gospel. We all agree that we want to follow Jesus and come closer to God. But why are we so shy about fishing for others? Why do we find it hard to try and bring others to Christ?

Could it be that we're afraid of talking to others about our faith because we think we will be shown to be lacking? Is it because we feel ashamed and embarrassed because religious people are often caricatured as cranks in the media? Is it because we don't want to disturb people? Would we not disturb someone whose coat was on fire? Would we never tell a crying child that the toy needs to be switched on before it will work properly?

If we're not prepared to lead people towards God, then who is? And yet leading people to God is part of our “contract”. To be a follower of Christ implies that we too proclaim the gospel. We all agree that we want to follow Jesus and come closer to God. But why are we so shy about fishing for others? Why do we find it hard to try and bring others to Christ?
COMONI ~ VERONA MISSION APPEAL
this weekend we welcome
Fr John Downey Comboni ~ Verona Missionary to make the annual Mission Appeal please be generous in the retiring collection

SINGING AT MASS
Singing is an important part of making the Mass a real experience of celebration. St Augustinie said that when we sing our prayers we pray twice. Please join in the singing at Mass. Our lead singers and choir are there to help the congregation not replace them. Also it would be great to have more lead singers, choir members and musicians with instruments - if you can help please make yourself known.

MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS
Donor ~ INTS God’s mercy and protection over our family
Donor ~ INTS success in exams
Betty Ruane and family ~ INTS Regine Tschantcho ~ INTS
Sr Delia Young FMSJ ~ INTS New Year Blessings
Flatley Family ~ INTS New Year Blessings
Geraghty Family ~ INTS New Year Blessings
Tarpey Family ~ INTS New Year Blessings
Winnie Byrne ~ INTS New Year Blessings
Ken Wishart ~ INTS Birthday - 19 JAN
Kevin Connolly ~ INTS Birthday
Marlene Jones ~ INTS Birthday
Donor ~ INTS successful surgery
Ken Wishart ~ INTS speedy recovery
Kate McCarthy ~ INTS successful treatment
Mary Nolan ~ INTS successful treatment
Renee Kane ~ INTS successful treatment
Sam Corcoran ~ INTS successful treatment
Beverley Alwan ~ RIP RD
Jeff Rigby ~ RIP RD
Shirley Welsby ~ RIP Anniv (19th Jan)
Nano Convery ~ RIP 2nd Anniv (21st Jan)
Peter Murray ~ RIP Anniv (22nd Jan)
James Lorrigan ~ RIP Anniv (23rd Jan)
James Dennis ~ RIP 40th Anniv (29th Jan)
Tony McAssey ~ RIP 80th Birthday (24th Jan)
Fr Tereon Schofield ~ RIP 70th Birthday (31st Jan)

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND
PARISHIONERS
we remember in our prayers 
the sick and housebound

CONDOLENCES
we offer our sincere condolences to
Rigby Family
Jeff Rigby RIP

WELCOMERS MEETING (SH)
there will be a meeting for all those already involved in welcoming ministry at the 10.30am Sunday Mass those who would like to get involved and any other interested parishioners
11.30 to 12.00
Sunday 5th February 2017

MUSIC MINISTRY MEETING (SH)
there will be a meeting for all those already involved in music ministry at the 10.30am Sunday Mass those who would like to get involved and any other interested parishioners
11.30 to 12.00
Sunday 5th February 2017

READERS MEETING (SH)
there will be a meeting for all those already involved in reading ministry at the 10.30am Sunday Mass those who would like to get involved and any other interested parishioners
11.30 to 12.00
Sunday 12th February 2017

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND
PARISHIONERS
we remember in our prayers
the sick and housebound

CONDOLENCES
we offer our sincere condolences to
Rigby Family
Jeff Rigby RIP

WELCOMERS MEETING (SH)
there will be a meeting for all those already involved in welcoming ministry at the 10.30am Sunday Mass those who would like to get involved and any other interested parishioners
11.30 to 12.00
Sunday 29th January 2017

MUSIC MINISTRY MEETING (SH)
there will be a meeting for all those already involved in music ministry at the 10.30am Sunday Mass those who would like to get involved and any other interested parishioners
11.30 to 12.00
Sunday 5th February 2017

READING MEETING (SH)
there will be a meeting for all those already involved in reading ministry at the 10.30am Sunday Mass those who would like to get involved and any other interested parishioners
11.30 to 12.00
Sunday 5th February 2017

ABC - ABOUT BEING CATHOLIC
MEETING
next meeting
Sunday 12th February 2016 (SH)
12.00noon to 1.00pm

RASSEMBLEMENT PAROISSIENS FRANCOPHONES (SH)
MEETING
FRANCOPHONE PARISHIONERS
il y aura un rassemblement pour les paroissiens francophones à 19:00 le vendredi 17 février suivie d’un repas simple

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY AND TIME
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
followed by
HEALING MASS
(fourth Friday of each month)
Friday 24th February 2017
Sacred Heart Church
6.00pm - Station of the Cross
weather permitting in the Garden, or in church
7.00pm - Mass with Anointing of the Sick
8.00pm - Supper (£1 donation)
Our Lady Undoer of Knots
St Pio of Pietrelcina
St Peregrine
pray for us
All are welcome.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING
as we plan the activities for the year ahead we would like to establish a calendar of dates for charity fundraising those who would like to run events or make collections at the end of Mass please email the parish office with details of the charity and the dates you would like

VOLUNTEERS
because of the poor financial situation of our parish we need volunteer help to keep it going if can you spare a few hours on a regular basis please contact the parish office

FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
children in Year three and above are invited to register by sending Fr Derek (via school or via the parish office) a letter of request and a copy of both their birth and baptism certificates

SAFE - GORTON
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS
As a parish we have three Community Outreach Projects under the title of SAFE - Gorton. The projects are open to everyone who lives in Gorton and the surrounding areas.

SAFE COMMUNITY CAFE
under review

SAFE COMMUNITY YOUTH MUSIC PROJECT
AMBITION
(safe-gorton.com)
for young people interested in music and various aspects of production no charge
Tuesday
7.00pm to 9.00pm

SAFE COMMUNITY GARDEN
everyone welcome no charge
Saturday
12.00noon to 2.00pm
and at other times by arrangement

BAPTISM
if you would like to have your child baptised
step one
please contact the parish office and make an appointment to see Fr Derek
step two
attend a baptism preparation session
step three
fix the baptism date

PARISHIONERS
please be generous in the retiring collection

Donor

KATE MCCARTHY
SAM CORCORAN
TARPEY FAMILY
WINNIE BYRNE

JEFF RIGBY RIP

FR JOHN DOWNEY COMBONI ~ VERONA MISSIONARY