

God's Call - The Summons - Will You Come and Follow Me?

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare,
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

What is it that others do or say that helps you to recognise that they are trying to be like Jesus and live a Christian life?

Is it the clothes they wear? The words they speak? The actions they do? The values and virtues they reflect?

As Christians, we are all **called** by God – given a **vocation** – so that we may become **robed in the Glory of God**. Each one of us has a **special part to play**; each one of us has **been blessed** with a **unique set of gifts and talents** to develop and use to glorify God. We must listen carefully and grow in faith and love to truly be able to follow God's Ways. We may have **set backs** and we may have to make **sacrifices** along the way but **if we stay true the rewards will be great**; **We will see the face of God and be born to eternal life in Heaven with all the Angels and Saints**.

Our Father has given us help and guidance in many ways in the past, recorded in the Bible and through the lives of the Saints and Martyrs, and He still sends us help today. His most precious and powerful gifts to us are Jesus, His Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit bestows gifts on us so we may bear His fruits and have strength to do God's work.

Jesus is our role model, our guide like a lighthouse and our teacher: Saint Paul uses the expression "to put on the mind of Christ" to be able to know what to do and how to act. The Gospel teaches us that we cannot physically see Jesus or the Holy Spirit present with us today, but we can recognise Jesus and the Holy Spirit in others. We recognise Jesus and the Holy Spirit in others when they are serving others, spreading the Good News and helping with the world.

A discipleship blueprint is found in Jesus' teaching of *the Beatitudes*.

Matthew 5:1-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*Blessed are you when men reproach you, and persecute you,
and speaking falsely, say all manner of evil against you, for My sake.*

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Watch the weblink below to reflect and fully understand the meaning of the Beatitudes.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9ek5YQmBmk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZNz9v9uXKc>

Here we find the "*attitudes*" of Jesus. To meditate upon these few verses of scripture is to "*gaze*" upon the traits of Jesus. As we do this, we are slowly transformed into reflections of Jesus. We become ever more fully his disciples and, at the same time, ever more fully the masterpieces we were meant to be. The more we let ourselves be carved by the wind of the Spirit and the water of our baptism, the more we will become fascinating "*clones*" of Jesus. We can show our dedication through the way we act, the way we treat others and teach others. Then, in turn, others we meet may slowly be transformed into His disciples as well.

Look at each Beatitude and decide what qualities they are teaching us to emulate.

e.g. Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy.

Love, Humbleness, Forgiveness and
Steadfast faith

Which beatitude do you feel most comfortable with?
Which one do you feel is part of who you are?
Which one do you think you reflect most in your life?

Which beatitude make you feel most uncomfortable?
Which one is most puzzling?
Which one do you feel called to develop more in your life? Why?

We need to remember that even small things can make a difference - we need to make a start and persevere.

Above life's chaos, we can make a difference...



A butterfly flaps its wings . . . A tornado creates havoc somewhere else.



A ripple in water

can travel very far.

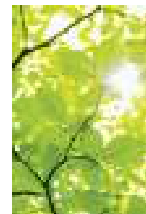
If luck was a raindrop . . .
I'd send you a shower



If hope was a minute . . .
I'd send you hours



If a leaf was happiness . . .
I'd give you a tree



And
If you ever need a friend
you'll always have me.



Diocesan Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus,

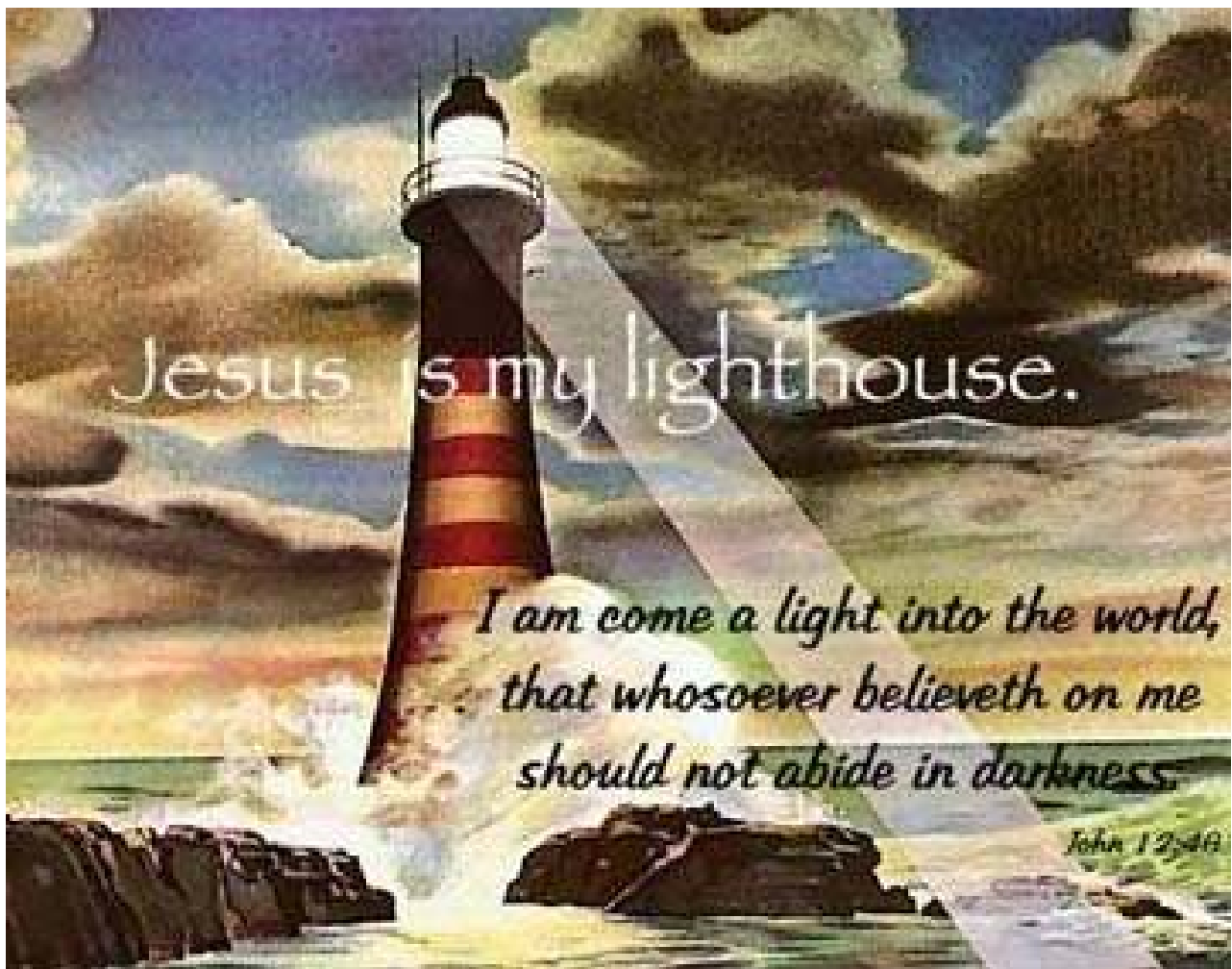
send labourers into your harvest.

Inspire, in the hearts of your people,
vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Bless our families with a spirit of generosity.

May those whom you call to the priesthood and religious life
have the courage to give themselves to your Church
as co-operators in your work.

St. John Vianney: Pray for us.



The Starfish Story: You can make a difference, regardless of how insignificant it may seem to the eyes of others. (Author unknown)



While walking along a beach, an elderly gentleman saw someone in the distance leaning down, picking something up and throwing it into the ocean.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, picking up starfish one by one and tossing each one gently back into the water.

He came closer still and called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

The old man smiled, and said, "I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the elderly observer commented, "But, young man, do you not realise that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

The young man listened politely. Then he bent down, picked up another starfish, threw it into the back into the ocean past the breaking waves and said, "It made a difference for that one!"