

## SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

Happy New Year and welcome back. January, a new year, a fresh start for all of us. We hear the call of the first disciples today, those who said yes to following Jesus, living out their **vocation** with **faith** in him.

### WE LISTEN

#### Mark 1:14-20

As Jesus was walking along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake. He said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.



### RESPONSE

Lord Jesus, the disciples never questioned who you were. They were obedient and followed you. Give us **faith** like the disciples to always follow you and make the right decisions.  
Amen.

### MISSION

How many people do you follow on social media?  
How does it make you feel when people don't follow you back?  
The only follower Jesus wants is you, and he should be our influencer.  
Challenge yourself today to only follow those who give positive messages.

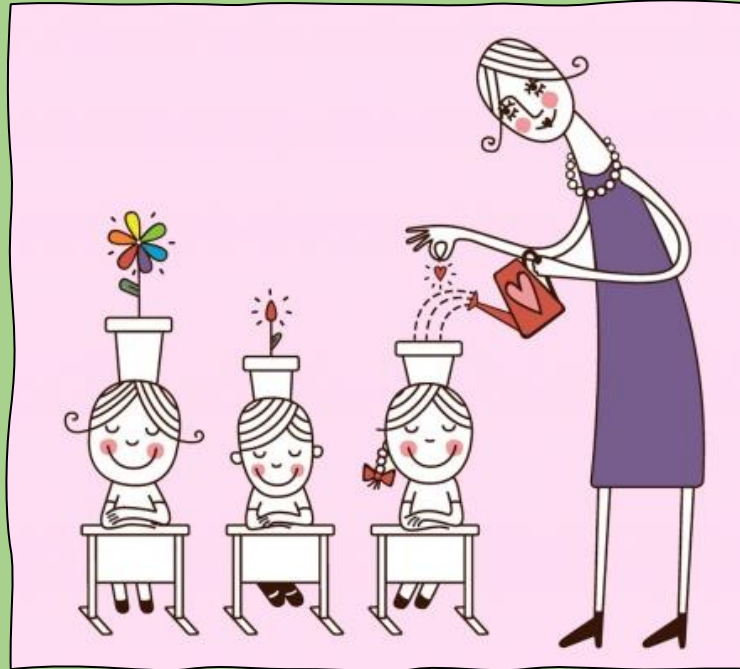
## SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

Over the coming weeks, we follow Mark's Gospel, the shortest of the four. We begin to hear about the early days of Jesus' ministry. We hear of his unfailing **integrity** to do the right thing for people, even when challenged by the authorities – he always did good.

### WE LISTEN

#### Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.



### RESPONSE

Lord Jesus, thank you that you help us to understand what it means to be truly good people. Teach us in your ways of **integrity, faith** and **aspiration** so that we can fully live out our **vocation**.  
Amen.

### MISSION

Can you name all of the four Gospel writers?  
Which teachers in school make a deep impression on you?  
Let them know in your next lesson that their teaching has a positive impact on you.

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Mark tells us this morning of the miracle of Jesus healing a leper. Jesus had no fear of being with those who were rejected and despised because of their pain, disease and poverty. The leper, although a stranger to Jesus, had **faith** to believe that he could make him well again.

### WE LISTEN

#### Mark 1: 40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to! Be cured!' The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.



### RESPONSE

Lord, we pray today for all those in the caring profession. We thank you for the unfailing care and resilience of doctors, nurses and carers. May the recipients of their care know your love and healing touch  
Amen

### MISSION

At some point in our life, we will have all had the help of a doctor, a nurse and even a parent when we have been unwell. Next time you receive a moment of care from another person, how might you show gratitude like the leper did?

## SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

Jesus continues his mission today, visiting places and people and doing the unthinkable like healing people and forgiving their sins. He was radical in his day and he was radical in his teaching, but all that he was teaching, preaching and doing was good, and out of love for his people.

### WE LISTEN

#### Mark 2:1-12

Seeing their **faith**, Jesus said to the paralytic, 'My child, your sins are forgiven.' Now some scribes were sitting there, and they thought to themselves, 'How can this man talk like that? Who can forgive sins but God?'



### RESPONSE

Father God, help us not to be judgemental but to **respect** all those that we will meet today. Help us to see that none of us are perfect and that you love us all equally and that you are there for each of us.  
Amen.

### MISSION

Be **respectful** in all you do today and with all the people you meet. Believe that Jesus is with you and wants what's best for you.