

there must be
more to **life...**



*Discover
Jesus.*

Greetings,

With this letter comes the second to last set of resources, ideas, etc., for our current year's theme of **There must be more to Life... #Discover Jesus!** Each month we have sought to provide ideas, articles and resources to provoke thought and possibilities. There is no magic wand for engaging not only with ourselves but with those in our community as we seek to "tweak" an interest in Jesus and the message of his Kingdom. Different communities have different resources in terms of their people and the abilities present. Some will use festival occasions to engage, others will be more able to engage with simple and straightforward conversations over a kitchen table.

On one level, trying to have monthly themes based upon the Gospels of the month is a bit of a conceit because our themes, if you look at them, intertwine one with the other through the whole Gospel narrative, but sometimes having something to hang a hat on as a focus can be helpful. This month's theme is no less one of those universal themes – **Jesus calls us to follow.** I.e. we are all called to discipleship. A significant element of encouraging others into discipleship is that *"To make disciples we have to be disciples!"* How do we encourage and enable our parishioners into fuller discipleship? Yes, there are aspects such as prayer, the study of scripture, participating in the fullness of the sacramental realities of Jesus present to us here and now, and so on. Too often though, if we ask some of our people to put words to their faith, it can often seem that they are still back in Sunday School. Simple faith should not be simplistic faith. There is a plethora of material in Christian bookshops such as *Koorong* and *Pauline Books and Media*, email articles and prayer and meditation Apps, as well as online material which is available to be used individually as well as in groups. Do we alert our people to these opportunities? One set of online teaching videos is listed below.

The beginning of October also brings to a close the Season of Creation/Creation-tide, for those who have been using some of last month's supplemental material. There is an opportunity to engage with those in our community by holding a **St Francis-tide and the Blessing of Pets**. The Feast of St Francis of Assisi is on the 4th October and this has become an occasion to draw upon St Francis' special relationship with creation and bless pets and/or animals. The Season

of Creation links from last month include some ideas for this, and there are a number of resources attached with this email. You could also find a multiplicity of resources on the internet. This can actually become a community event, depending upon your resources and those you can gather together.

Feast Days – October has two major Feast Days; St Luke on 18th October, and Saints Simon & Jude on 28th October. Liturgical resources for these feasts are attached.

An extra this month, Jasmine Irvine has had a look at various hymns which could be used each Sunday in relation to the readings. Have a look and see if there is something you had not thought of to try?

Some free online faith formation/evangelism resources:

Proclaiming the Gospel 101 – a series of online teaching videos on evangelism and its context, by the Bishop of Springfield, Illinois. Most are approximately an hour in length (some are less). Topics include – Knowing and Telling Our “God Story”; God’s Intervention; Making it Concrete: Personal Evangelism. www.episcopalspringfield.org/proclaiming-the-gospel-101/

A couple of other video series are:

- *Reading the Bible for Dummies* (or an alternate title for this series might be *Introduction to Hermeneutics*) www.episcopalspringfield.org/reading-the-bible-for-dummies/
- *Occupying Our Baptismal Covenant* – From Getting Wet to Getting Saved www.episcopalspringfield.org/occupying-our-baptismal-covenant/

A reminder before concluding – you will have received an online survey via SurveyMonkey seeking to ascertain how useful our work as a Task Group has been. If you don’t recall seeing this email, check your Junk Mail in case it has gone through to there. Please fill this survey in if you have not yet done so, it is open until the end of September. There are 10 questions that will take about two minutes to complete and the answers are anonymous.

Also – do not forget the Blue Knot Day Resources that have been sent out previously in preparation for the 29th October. It would be good to make the prayer available for all parishioners to use as we pray as a Diocese for those in our community who have suffered childhood abuse and trauma.

With all good wishes and prayers,



Fr David Patterson
(Chair of Diocesan Task Group)