

## LOCKDOWN DAY 39 – 4 MAY 2020

Greetings to all family and friends of False Bay Diocese,

Scripture: John 1: 43-51 Hymn: *The King of love my shepherd is.*

It's a new day. It's a new week of blessings. Today in our church calendar, we celebrate the Feast of St Philip and St James. Today, we will look and see what qualities from the life of St Philip we can integrate into our lives to strengthen our faith and share it. God willing, tomorrow we will take a look at St James.

Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter (Jn 1:44). It was to Philip that Jesus asked before feeding the five thousand, "Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?" With so many hungry people in our communities, I ask that you replace Philip's name with your own and see how you can help feed the hungry?

It was to Philip that the Greeks requested for an opportunity to meet Jesus (Jn 12:21) Having followed Jesus **and listened** to the teaching that **inspired** him, Philip requested Jesus during the last Supper, "Lord, show us the Father and then we shall be satisfied" (Jn 14:8). In reply to Philip Jesus said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9). To **know** and **believe** are synonyms. More than ever, during lockdown, our **faith** is our **anchor** and **inspiration**.

In John 1 vs. 46 we read that Philip says to Nathanael, "Come and See". Reflect today on how you came to faith. Go back to that moment. Who or what introduced you to Jesus? Jesus saw the potential in you and used that person, or whatever the moment or process was, to say 'Come and See'. Nathanael is highly sceptical and laughs in his friend Philip's face. But despite his scepticism, Nathanael went with his friend and met Jesus. Philip did not urge him or cajole him into following Jesus, but merely shared his excitement and invited Nathanael to see for himself. Philip did no more. As Christians, all we are required to do is share our excitement about Jesus and invite our friends to come with us. Once they meet Jesus for themselves, they too may believe, for Jesus does all the rest. Remember, the Samaritan woman gave a similar invitation to the people of her town (John 4:29).

As soon as Jesus spotted Nathanael he **saw a young man** who was **straight-talking, honest and upright**, someone who might be **outspoken** in his views but who **bore no malice** and who would be a **loyal and faithful supporter**. A special word of encouragement to our **young adults** today, is that we thank you for your challenging us to think deeper about our faith. We thank you that you are **digging deep** into your own faith to sustain you in these uncertain times. The king of love our shepherd is. God has a plan for you and will bring that plan and potential to fruition.

Perhaps it was the characteristic of open transparency which Jesus saw in little children. When Jesus was teaching his friends about the kingdom of God, he told them that in order to enter the kingdom, they must receive it just like a child (Mark 10:15). Please take your children up in your arms and bless them. Little children know that something is amiss. They need our reassurance.

Nathanael was conscious that Jesus **actually knew him** through and through. Everytime, I pray The Collect for Purity (APB pg 105), the reality strikes me that 'no secrets are hid' from our Almighty God.

Today, you are invited to reach out to any member of St Philip's church, any person bearing the name Philip or Nathanael. Do you know anyone whose faith is slipping a bit, invite them to 'Come and See.'

**We pray** for all those affected by and infected with the corona virus. We pray for all involved in the testing, tracing and tracking programme of Covid 19. We pray for protection for those going back to work today as the economy is slightly reopening.

I am, Because we are, Because God is ... Opening hearts to heal God's world. The king of love my shepherd is.