

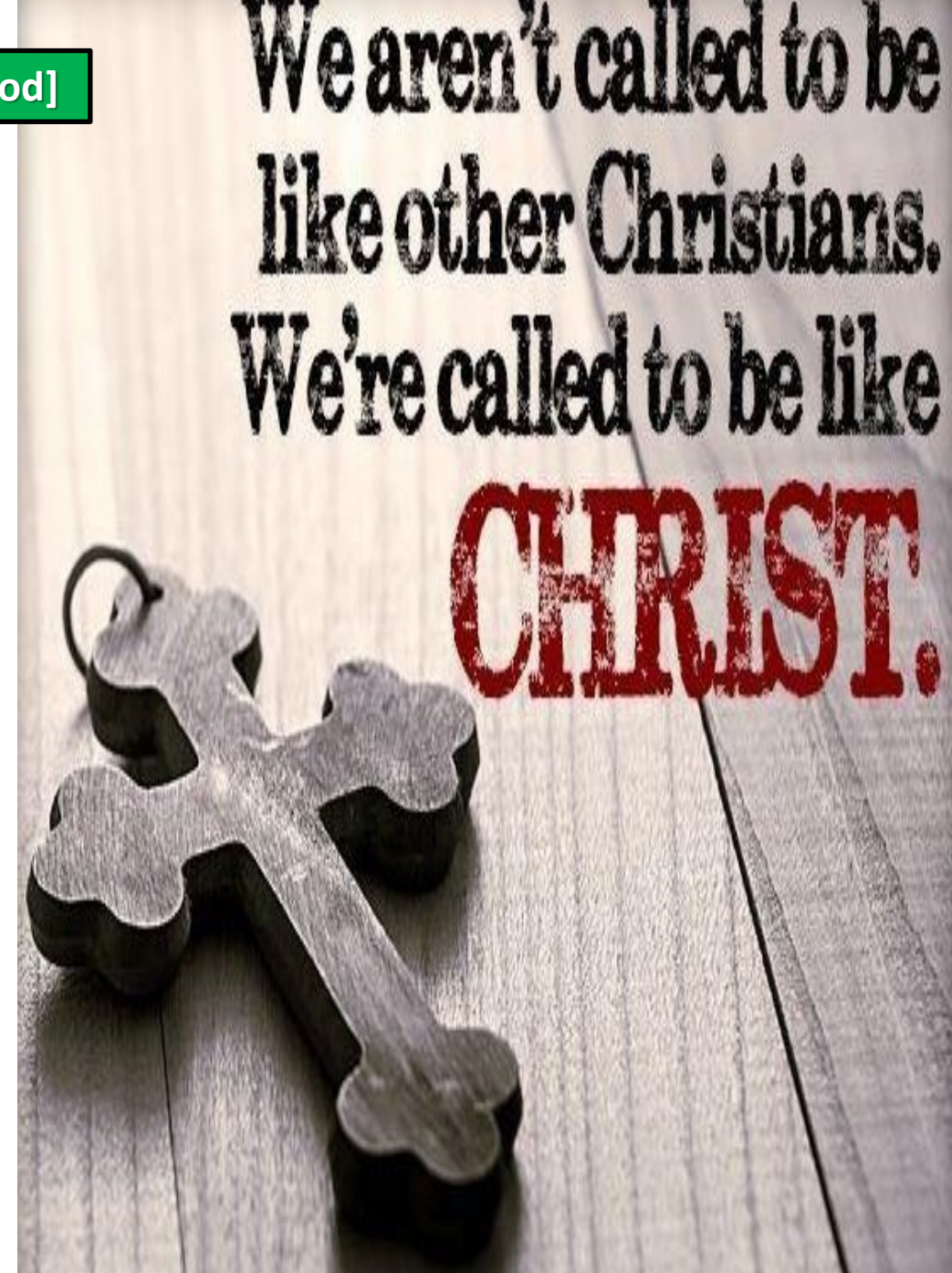
Theme: Called By Christ [God]

When I was a young child, my Uncle John Medcalf (a Catholic priest) told me that the hardest thing about becoming a priest was not whether or not your faith was strong enough or whether or not you felt worthy enough to do such a role, but about whether or not you wanted to be a dad (as you can't do both!) ... and my response was 'But how did you know which one to pick?'

Both parenthood and priesthood / religious orders are just two of the many ways that people can choose to serve others. Both are what we refer to as a 'vocation' ... a form of service that requires us to pour our heart and soul into it ... that gives us a sense of purpose and not just something that we can 'paint by numbers'!

In this sense, vocations are a 'calling'. As a Christian community we believe that Christ calls each of us to serve Him in a particular role. It isn't easy for all of us to know straightaway what this role is, but if we listen carefully [to Him] then He will tell us how what our purpose is.

[Mr Doust]



Prayer:

We have heard your glorious whisper,
Almost silent, yet insistent,
Breaking through the chatter of many voices,
The clatter of background noises,
The wind, the rain, storm and hurricane,
Through all of this
Your voice remains,
Unchangeable,
Cuts through to heart
And soul,
Unmissable.

'Come follow me, pick up the Cross...
My burden is no burden at all,
It is simply love,
Poured out for you
And through you,
Sustaining,
Empowering ...
Come follow me'

Pope Francis:

'We are not called to serve merely in order to receive a reward, but rather to imitate God, who made Himself a servant for our love. Nor are we called to serve only now and again, but to live in serving. Service is thus a way of life; indeed it recapitulates the entire Christian way of life: serving God in adoration and prayer; being open and available; loving our neighbour with practical deeds; passionately working for the common good.'