

# Sharing the mission of Jesus

Liturgy Notes for Sunday 17 November 2019



## Introduction to the Mass

Today as we celebrate this 33rd Sunday in Ordinary time, we also begin discerning, as a Parish, as an Archdiocese, the proposals for action that we believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to look at under the Theme of 'Sharing the Mission of Jesus'.

## Homily Notes / Ideas

As we look at our second Synod theme, we are coming to the end of our Liturgical Year, Luke's Year, as it were, Luke who wrote a Gospel and Acts of the Apostles or as some scholars say 'the Gospel of Luke part 2' or how the mission of Jesus was lived out in the early Church, in the Body of Christ.

This is what we are considering here; how do we, the Church, God's chosen people, the Body of Christ, continue to share in the Mission of Jesus today?

This is essential to each one of us being a Christian means moving from a faith in Jesus to a sharing in the faith of Jesus, as Jesus never said worship me, but he did many times, say follow me. How do we follow Jesus by Sharing in His mission?

Well first we need to ask the question what is the mission that we are called to share in, what was and is Jesus' Mission?



Well Jesus healed and he preached.

And as we hear today in our Gospel, he turns over tables.

Who did he heal?

Anyone who had need, but especially those on the periphery, the foreigners, the outsiders and especially on the Sabbath, the one day some didn't like it happening.

Who did he preach to and what did he preach?

He preached to firstly those who followed him, challenging them to change their lives, to share what they have with those who present with needs (you notice how he didn't sort out the worthy and unworthy in the feedings of the 5 or 4 thousands).

He also preached to those in authority within his own people, his own religion: challenging them to heal not hurt, that sabbath was made for humanity not humanity to serve the sabbath.

We can sum up the two prongs (as it were) of his mission as comforting the afflicted and afflict the comfortable!

We see that in our Gospel today.

Jesus enters the Temple in order to reclaim it. He censures those of the Jerusalem elite who refuse to hold themselves accountable to God and who use their positions and the temple system itself to oppress and tyrannise the vulnerable (20:45-21:4).

So if we are to share in Jesus mission then we are called to the same, to bring comfort to those in need, through our acts of charity and our works of mercy, at work, at home, and in our neighbourhoods, to continue Jesus mission of healing. As Pope Francis says:

*The Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. ... The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summoned us to the revolution of tenderness.<sup>1</sup>*

We are also called to bring people to a greater knowledge and understanding of God's love and mercy, to invite people to participate in the mission of Jesus and give them the language and understanding to live it out.

Finally, our preaching in action and words call us to challenge those who have power or authority in the world:

- By bringing healing to the world with our actions.

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<sup>1</sup> EG 88



- In joyful service of all
- Taking seriously our calling as stewards of creation
- Living lives that respect the environment and all creation with whom we share God's gift of the earth.

But also, by how we use our words, challenging prejudice and naming the injustices in the world. Calling all to truly value each person and every part of God's creation, to listen and respond to all who are in need, the marginalised, the refugees, those on the peripheries of society. And if we worry about what to say remember Jesus' words today: 'I ... shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict' paralleling Jesus earlier in Luke's Gospel when he promises that 'the Holy Spirit will teach [them] what they must say'.

If we ask whose mission this is? It is the mission of all the Baptised as Pope Saint John Paul II said in his Inaugural sermon:

*"[Jesus] came to make us all 'a kingdom of priests' ... the fact that Christ's mission as Priest, Prophet-Teacher and King continues in the Church. Everyone, the whole People of God, shares in this threefold mission."*

So we are all called to share fully in the mission of Jesus by virtue of our Baptism alone, it is not just for the professional religious, Pope Francis actually warns us against this saying 'it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelisation to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients'.

In sharing Jesus' Mission do we have the courage to face the reality of the world and not shy away from the difficult choices we have to make trusting that Resurrection is God's action, if we faithfully live out the Mission of Jesus, God's mission, in the world today:

- To enfold the compassionate love of God.
- To name, to anoint, the good in the world.
- To bring healing to the places and people that hurt.

Or as Pope Francis says, "This is our mission: to show by our lives, and perhaps even by our words that God loves everyone and never tires of anyone."

So how do we do this?

How do we enable all God's people to be part of this great mission of Jesus?



## Bidding Prayer

for weeks discerning 'Sharing the mission of Jesus' (17 November – 15 December)

Let us pray for all in the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

PAUSE

May we may counter the ambivalence and selfishness of many in our world and live lives in service of Jesus' mission to the world.

Lord in your Mercy. ...

OR

Let us pray for all in the Archdiocese of Liverpool

PAUSE

May we live out our Baptismal calling of lives in service of Jesus' mission to the world, service of the poor, marginalised and vulnerable in our society.

Lord in your Mercy. ...

