

Homily 14 June 2020 - Dispersed but Focused

Matthew 9:36 “Harassed and helpless, like sheep without a Shepherd”...

Jesus showed compassion to the crowds, after teaching them and curing their diseases. They were probably tired for having waited so long for the promised Messiah. Jesus summons the disciples and tells them the harvest is plentiful but there are very few labourers.

Let us look at our situation today. With the Covid pandemic lives have been turned upside down. Families have lost loved ones, businesses have shut down, and relationships have been strained. People have been annoyed for haphazard decisions made by those in authority at our expense and dismayed by those that flouted restrictions with reckless abandon.

As if that was not enough, racial tensions have arisen, fuelled by various personal views. Injuries, deaths and toppled statues, have been the characteristics of the last few days. All these things are enough to make one feel harassed and helpless. In that time Jesus called the twelve and tasked them to go forth and share the good news. He warned them to avoid the Gentiles and Samaritan villages. Have you ever wondered why? Probably due to their doctrinal differences.

How is Jesus sending us out today? Does our gospel withstand the challenges of this day? Yes it does. He promises to be with us till the end of the day, but we must strategise and focus. We must be church in a different way; using ‘Zoom’ today allows us to embrace modern ways of evangelism that further the Gospel. We must be proactive rather than being reactive and not be caught out on issues like racism, where even the institution of the Church has been caught out.

Our God given mandate, to cure the souls in the world and make it a better place for all of us, calls to be brave. We must be ready to stand up and be counted, even when others are of a different opinion, so long as we are guided by the spirit of God our helper. I leave you to fulfil this mandate and take the Gospel both afloat and ashore to our brothers and sisters who serve us on the seas.

Iurge you to remain faithful to the end, for the reward is at hand. One hundred years from today history will judge us; have we stood for right and against injustices in the world or looked the other way.

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