

Reflection for the Week, June 15th-21st, 2020

Mission: Matthew 9:35-10:20

On Sunday we heard the Gospel passage from Matthew 10 where Jesus sends 'The Twelve' out on mission – in two's – for the first time. I made the point that this is also the place where Jesus first refers to his twelve disciples as Apostles – those who are sent.

During their lifetime, every Christian will 'be sent' somewhere – or to someone. The ministry is the same as it was for The Twelve; we are to heal, proclaim the Good News of God, restore to life and bring hope to the people we are sent to.

It was a scary prospect for Jesus' followers and it is a no less scary prospect for us. Heeding the call to be sent out means risk and unpredictable circumstances. As is clear from the Gospel reading, the reception you might receive is variable. But a call is a call, and we show our trust in God by setting out. An easy road is not promised.

The motivating factor of Jesus' mission was love and compassion for the people he was sent to. Likewise, this should be our motive while we leave the outcome of the mission to God.

It is human nature to want to stay safe and feel secure, but therein lies the danger of complacency and a tendency to try and silence the voice of God. If we are serious in our commitment to the faith, we can expect the disturbing probe of the Holy Spirit demanding an ever-deeper response. We will be challenged to trust more fully in the God who loves us out of the limited horizons of our comfort zone. We are called to trust God with all that we hold most dear, and often we will hesitate on the brink. But God has promised to go with us as we respond to God's call; His blessing will be with us so we can bring that blessing to others, and he will lead us into a future beyond our wildest imagining.

Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

(Matthew 9: 37-38)

Where are you being sent?