

## Homily for the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 2022 Year C

The Church's role is Missionary and its task of sending out missionaries is an urgent one, a task which goes on in every age.

As St. Paul says in that letter to Timothy, "God wishes all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth".

Christ's own Mission was confined to a very small area of Palestine, around Jerusalem, but of course He was looking out on the world and thinking of peoples of all times and places when He spoke the words, "The harvest is great, but the labourers are few".

He realised that the harvest of souls was countless. The opportunities for saving them was plentiful, but that too few people would volunteer for the work of spreading His Gospel message. The world would be far more ready to receive the Gospel, than His followers would be able to announce it. So, Christ sent His disciples ahead of him, to announce, with a message of peace, that the reign of God was close at hand.

And we can feel a sense of their joy and wonder. Their Mission was such a great success as people flocked to them to listen to the word of God.

That Missionary task continues. The invitation to take part in the work of the Lord, to be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, is extended to our generation.

Our Mission as baptised Christians is to bring the peace of Christ wherever we go and to all we meet. No special training is needed for the work, no profound education, as the word of God itself is already waiting to come to birth in a more total way in each and every one of us. All that is required is continual effort on our part to allow the goodness of God to shine in our lives.

Since the Lord relies on us as His helpers, Christ's Mission and teaching will be judged on how we show it in our lives. Good news will always be better received than bad news.

Unfortunately, our society is one where bad news seems to dominate.

Ours is an age where many people are confused and disillusioned. The search for meaning and stability drifts into the arms of drink, drugs and shallow relationships. We can open their hearts to faith and arouse in them a thirst for God, simply by shining the light of kindness, courtesy, gentleness, charity, and respect into those lives.

In the midst of plenty, people are hungering to be wanted, loved, recognised and needed. God alone can overcome that darkness in the human heart and satisfy its God given desires.

If we can wake ourselves up to the fact that as baptised Catholics, we are all called to Mission and that every day is a harvest day, and in every place there are things that we alone can do for Christ, which will otherwise remain undone. We are all responsible for some small part of the Lord's work and it is up to us to reap that harvest.

We cannot sit back and expect the peace and justice and love of Christ to appear unexpectedly from Heaven, without our involvement.

To give others the peace of Christ is the vocation we all share as His disciples. It is the task committed to us in the ordinary daily circumstances of our lives. We are called not merely to be good people, but to spread the Gospel.