

Reflection Wednesday Week 25 – 2021

Any sports man or woman will tell you that to be any good you have to really focus. Emma Raducanu, the recent USA tennis champion, said that she was so focused that the tennis just took over her game. Jesus knew this when he sent out his disciples. By taking nothing with them except the message, the Good News, they would be focused on their mission and eventually the mission would take over their lives. Hence their delight at how things went - and tennis had not been invented then! Even if they encountered a village that rejected them it was not worth the mention. We might think they had no preparation, but they had travelled with Jesus and would have heard the same stories and teachings time and time again. They could repeat them by heart. They would have discussed them so often they became second nature. They did not teach and preach from their heads but from their hearts from an inner awareness of the goodness and truth of all that Jesus spoke about and lived and especially of his love for people and for God. Francis of Assisi put it another way. In sending his disciples on missions to pagan territories, he said “Go and preach the Gospel and, *if necessary*, use words!”

We are called to an urgent mission to heal our planet. If we do this with trust and love for the planet then it will speak of its love for us and, however hard our road ahead may become, it will encourage and enrich us in ways far beyond our expectations. The planet speaks of God’s love for us and will enhance and richly strengthen our love for God.

So beautiful is the world You created – from soil to sea, plants and trees of every sort.

How wonderful the waters teeming with living creatures, birds flying across the skies, all creatures and beasts on the land

How we have taken the earth for granted – destroyed habitats, hunted to extinction, desecrated environments and species.

We are sorry for our ignorance, our selfishness, our behaviour.