

Reflection Tuesday Week 14 2022

The gospels from Matthew this week are very pithy and offer much food for thought. What is striking about today's Gospel, however, is the picture of Jesus Matthew gives us. He shows us a Jesus who deeply cares for the people he encounters. He is truly moved by the needs of the people: for guidance, for reassurance and affirmation. A people he knows are completely lost without God, echoing the concern Hosea has for the people of Samaria who have turned away from God. To truly know Jesus is not about learning all the facts of Jesus, or knowing what he said and did, important though they are. Knowing Jesus is about realising and experiencing what makes him tick in terms of his love for the Father and his love for us, his compassion and empathy, his kindness, his mercy and forgiveness, not as words or qualities but as real experiences. In other words, knowing Jesus with the heart, not the head, although they are interlinked.

Knowing Jesus in this way will motivate and urge us to want to help others share that same experience. This is a knowledge that inspires us to become labourers for the harvest because we recognise, like Jesus, that others are lost and know not where to turn. We acknowledge their need for affirmation and reassurance, and to be told how much God loves them and how precious they are to God.

Because we know Jesus, we also know that we never journey alone, never go out on mission alone, because Jesus walks with us all the time offering reassurance, insight, courage and the energy to reflect his great love.