

Reflection Thursday Week 27 – 2023

The chosen people are back in Israel after many years of exile. They gather together to be told about their origins and history as a chosen people. They are deeply moved and inspired and, in responding to the call, they are filled with great joy. They are reminded that God has journeyed with them and stayed with them in exile even though they were unaware of that presence. Jesus was the fulfilment of that story, and his life and eventual death gave a completely new meaning to it. The story no longer belongs just to a chosen people but to us and to all people.

Aware of this and knowing that his death was approaching, Jesus sent out his apostles and disciples to continue introducing people to the Good News, to Jesus Christ. By asking his disciples to take nothing with them, they had to both trust in God and in the people to whom they preached the Good News. Trust inspires trust. Jesus placed complete trust in them even though they did not fully understand his purpose and how his life would unfold. But, by making themselves vulnerable in this way their listeners would be more ready to listen and be open to the message they were proclaiming. As the acclamation states: *Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

We pray that the Bishops gathered for the synod in Rome will equally be open to the word of God and its mission to help the Church grow in its ability to respond to the world of today.