

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 65(66): 1-7, 16, 20

Second Reading:

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

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Gospel:

Isaiah 66:10-14

"THE HARVEST IS RICH BUT THE LABOURERS ARE FEW, SO ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SENID LABOURERS TO HIS HARVEST..."



James Tissot, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online <u>HERE</u>.

Pray 🎣

In the Gospel today we see Jesus sending out His disciples in pairs.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- What an exciting time for the disciples to go out preaching, teaching and working miracles in the name of Jesus! Have you ever seen Jesus' power at work in your life or in the life of others? Have you ever been able to bring the teaching or healing presence of Jesus to another? Thank Jesus for this.
- Greater than the ability to work miracles is being a child of God our Heavenly Father. What does it mean to you to be a Child of God, an heir of His Kingdom? Reflect on this in prayer this week. What rights and responsibilities does it confer?



Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out to the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless others now. In today's readings we hear even more about the radical call to discipleship.

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- If your family were going on a camping trip, what would you pack? Work together to list the ten most important things! Are there any things people would like to bring that you don't actually need?
- Working together is important for Jesus and His disciples too in today's Gospel. Why do you think Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs?
- What do we actually need to bring the message of Jesus to others?
- How can we work together as a family to make sure Jesus is the centre of our family and of our lives too?



This week, look for opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ to all you meet! Pray St Teresa of Avila's prayer together at the start of each day.



EVERYONE IS CALLED TO WITNESS TO CHRIST

Today's Gospel begins immediately after the final verse in last Sunday's Gospel. After strong language about the difficulties of discipleship, Jesus immediately appoints 72 people to go ahead of him to every town and place he plans to visit, proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is at hand. He sends them in pairs. In the Law of Moses two witnesses were needed for a testimony to be credible. It was probably also a safer way to travel.

Jesus admits it will be difficult, that he is sending them out like lambs among wolves. Yet they are to bring nothing with them, not even a money bag or sandals. They are to greet no one on the way so as not to be distracted from their mission. When they enter a house, their message is simply "peace." The response they will receive may be positive or negative. Either way, they are to know that the Kingdom of God is at hand. They are not to demand special treatment but eat and drink whatever is given them. They are to stay in one house and are not to look around for one that provides better accommodations. They are to heal the sick as a sign that the Kingdom of God is at hand for them. Like Jesus' miracles, healing is a sign of the coming of the kingdom. If the town will not receive them, they are to shake the dust from their feet and move on. Even in the case of such rejection they should know that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

When they return from their journeys, they are rejoicing because their mission has been successful. Demons were under their power because of Jesus' name. Jesus may have sent them out as lambs among wolves, but at the conclusion of this passage he assures them that they have been given power over the enemy and nothing will harm them, not even serpents and scorpions.

A key theme of today's Gospel and last Sunday's Gospel is discipleship its challenges, its difficulties, and its rewards. Sharing in the mission of Jesus is difficult, but everyone is called to do it, not just some professionals trained for ministry. Even for us today, the harvest is plentiful. We should pray to the master of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest.

Loyola Press Sunday Connection

YOUTH 2000 SUMMER FESTIVAL



For young people aged 16 - 35. Lots of great activities each day as well as excellent speakers, music and fantastic workshops. There will be lots of time for prayer and time to chill out, meet new people and experience the best of what it means to be young and Catholic today! In Newbridge College, Co. Kildare from 7th - 10th August. It's donation only, so if you can give something to help with costs, please do, but if you can't afford it, don't let that stop you coming! Free busses from around the country. Newcomers always welcome - every year loads of new people come to the festival, so you won't be the only new face there! More on www.youth2000.ie



For formation in discernment: Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.



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In today's Gospel, Jesus sends out His disciples in pairs to teach and preach in His name, and to work miracles for all to see. The disciples are amazed at the results, but it's important to remember two things: all this happened through the power of Jesus (not any power of their own), and Jesus reminds them that it is a greater thing to be counted as a Child of God than to be seen to work miracles.

There's a lot of work to be done in the Church today; a lot of people still need to hear the Gospel message proclaimed for the first time, and still many more need to hear it proclaimed correctly and lived out authentically. Before we get stuck into the work, it's important to remember to be, rather than just to do. Be in God's presence and draw from His grace, be loved (since we are all God's beloved), be a child of God in the arms and heart of their Father. Once we know who we are, and Whose we are, we can do so much more. Then we can really be the hands and feet of Christ, we can bring His love and compassion to others, rather than relying on our own limited strength and resources, because let's face it, on our own we're weak and can run out of steam, but with Christ propelling us, all things are possible!

Pray Teresa of Avila's prayer or listen to the musical version here. Let this become your prayer and guide your actions this week, but remember first to draw your strength from God's love for you!

To the Heights Youth Resource also available

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Christ has no Body but yours

(The Porter's Gate)

Prayer of St Teresa of Avila Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out to the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless others now.