



DEVELOPING & SUPPORTING  
**SCHOOL &**  
PARISH LINKS

## **Staff Liturgy - Missionary Disciples**

### **Introduction**

Today reflecting on our call to be Disciples of Christ. In the Gospel we hear, Jesus asks us to take our call of discipleship seriously. We hear all three people making excuses to fully following Jesus but the Gospel deserves urgency and a proper commitment. Jesus calls us all to follow him, to be true, loyal disciples who take the call seriously. We also read how Jesus sends 72 disciples out in pairs to share the good news, they come back amazed what they can achieve through his name. Pope Francis calls us all to be missionary disciples, loyal Disciples of Christ who have the mission of evangelising. To be a missionary disciple means to respond to Jesus' final command to us, "Go therefore and make disciple of all nations".

### **Opening Prayer**

Mary, star of the new evangelisation,  
Help us to bear radiant witness to communion,  
service, ardent and generous faith,  
Justice and love of the poor,  
that the joy of the Gospel  
may reach to the end of the earth,  
Illuminating even the fringes of our world.

### **Reflection A**

Pope Francis reminds us, "in virtue of our baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples", this is regardless of our job, state of life or position in the Church. When we think of a 'missionary' we may think of someone who preaches the Gospel in the developing world but Pope Francis calls us to home mission, within our workplace and in our families. He reminds us, "every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus", like the first disciples, after receiving the love of God, let us go out to tell others of that love.

Let us pray for the courage to tell others of the joy and freedom following Jesus brings.

Reflect on how you can bring the good news of Jesus to people your life.

(pause 15 seconds)

## **Scripture Reading –**

*A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew*

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of time.

The word of the Lord  
**R/ Thanks be to God**

## **Reflection B –**

We are to be Christ for others. Those who are baptised and confirmed are responsible for helping those around them to learn about God and to come to the knowledge and truth.

Mother Teresa used a good comparison: “often you can see power lines running alongside the street. Unless current is flowing through them, there is no light. The power line is you and I. The current is God! We have the power to allow the current to flow through us and thus generate the light of the world – Jesus – or refuse to be used and, thus, allow darkness to spread.

## **Reflection C –**

Throughout Jesus’s public ministry we observe that prayer was central to his life and mission. He frequently withdrew to pray. He taught his disciples how to pray, so that they would not only experience God’s love and mercy, but would be fed spiritually for the great work of evangelisation that was being asked of them. Two thousand years on, it is the same for us today. We are also invited to recommit to the life of prayer as food and fuel for our journey with the Lord, and so become missionary disciples.

Let us praise God by saying together the Benedictus prayer.

## **Benedictus - ALL**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!  
He has visited his people and redeemed them.  
He has raised up for us a mighty saviour  
in the house of David his servant,  
as he promised by the lips of holy men,  
those who were his prophets from of old.  
A saviour who would free us from our foes,  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled  
and his holy covenant remembered.  
He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,  
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,  
we might serve him in holiness and justice  
all the days of our life in his presence.  
As for you, little child,  
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.

You shall go ahead of the Lord  
to prepare his ways before him,  
To make known to his people their salvation  
through forgiveness of all their sins,  
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God  
who visits us like the dawn from on high.  
He will give light to those in darkness,  
those who dwell in the shadow of death,  
and guide us into the way of peace.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

### **Bidding Prayers –**

We pray for the Church. That you will continue to guide her and strengthen our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and Bishop John and all priests and deacons as they continue to serve the people of God.

Lord in your mercy **R/ Hear our prayer**

We pray for our School. May it always be a community of love and faith where staff and pupils can grow in their relationship with you.

Lord in your mercy **R/ Hear our prayer**

We pray for missionaries around the world. Strengthen and reward them in their work as they bring your word to the ends of the earth.

Lord in your mercy **R/ Hear our prayer**

We pray for our families. May they reflect your home at Nazareth and be a place of prayer and love.

Lord in your mercy **R/ Hear our prayer**

### **Closing Prayer - ALL**

Loving Father,  
You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son,  
that we might believe in him and have eternal life.  
May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day  
and live the Good News with joy.  
Through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
help us to “go out to the whole world and proclaim”  
our faith with confidence.  
Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel  
by our words and actions. Amen.