

Homily. 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year. C. 25/26 June 2022.

You and I, who are the Church, are only ever being the Church if we're out in the world doing something about living the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus love and salvation. Our Mass, prayers, ministries and life within our Church community with it's worship and ways of service aims to strengthen and empower us so that we can better live the meaning of our faith in our lives. Our life here also aims to bring us together so that we can offer our daily lives, our everyday loving and service, as a truly acceptable sacrifice to God, through Christ in the power of His Holy Spirit.

Yet, we have to remember that it was God who chose us first of all, not the other way round. In Jesus, God has chosen me and you to be followers of the way of God's Son. As Jesus Himself said; You did not choose me. No, I chose you, and I have commanded you to bear much fruit and then you will be my disciples. We are His disciples because He personally picked us to be so, and it's the fruitfulness of our lives that proves that we are so. As St. Paul teaches in the 2nd reading; We were called into the freedom of Christ so that we could serve one another through love. Let's live our lives by the power of the Spirit then, St. Paul says, standing firm in the freedom of Christ's choice and love, never submitting ourselves again to the yoke of slavery to selfishness.

When we all gather together as a Parish at 11.00am on Sunday 17th July in our St. Joseph's Parish School Hall we will be gathering to hear about our local area of mission and service and to understand better the facts and finances of our own Church community. That's one part of the story that needs to be told and will be told.

But, what happens next is even more important. We will begin writing the story of our future, the story of our mission and our own ways to be fruitful disciples and friends of Christ in these times here in our little spot. This will take much prayer, considered thought, patience and openness to each other and much listening the prompts and inspiration the Holy Spirit.

This business of ours is as urgent as it is important, points which the gospel of St. Luke impresses upon us this weekend. We were told that Jesus set his face resolutely towards Jerusalem. His journey would be destiny defining for Himself, for his followers and for the future of the whole world. To those who wanted to follow Him and to those Jesus called to follow in His footsteps, He stressed the needed commitment and single mindedness to this cause and to a course of action that was irreversible, namely the Reign of God in our lives and over our world.

From that turning point until now, nothing about this has changed. Our coming Parish Assembly is all about this urgent work; the work of making God's love and saving freedom better known and understood, better accepted and loved and better followed and lived by all of us and by more people around us, day by day. My hope, which I hope is your hope, is that after our Assembly on the 17th July we will at least have begun to do this so that all of us can live our call in Christ by more effectively being the Church He wants us to be for others, better living the gospel of the Lord.