

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit ...

Welcome everyone - good to meet together this morning

Welcome Kris and Karen - we hope you will find the welcome from our parishes warm and supportive these difficult times and throughout your time with us.

All of us are missing being able to give and receive support from others. We are discovering different ways to communicate our love and concerns.

I received this wooden 'hug in a mug' postcard from a friend. I'd love to give you all a 'hug in a mug' right now !

Our gospels recently have been based on Jesus' mission instructions to His disciples.

God sent Jesus to be our Redeemer, Healer and Friend.

Jesus called young men to follow Him and learn from Him for 2 years in His ministry and prayer life.

He called twelve named disciples to become apostles and commissioned them with the power to do His work in miracles of healing and teaching with only basic equipment for themselves. They were to go out to the Jewish communities within a defined area.

In turn these Apostles were themselves ready to go despite the hardships and the sacrifices he had emphasized.

We know that some of these twelve became important international evangelists travelling far and wide, forming churches that still exist today.

Other remained in the Holy Land or in national positions of importance providing home bases and organising relief and mission there.

Others' names we never hear of again. These are the 'little ones' working quietly to spread God's Word of Love close to home for example in their workplaces, infirmaries, prisons and people's homes

Here in today's Gospel, the end of His instructions, Jesus assures these first twelve named apostles that ,whatever they have to encounter, God had called people to support them wholeheartedly. These supporters will be willing to face financial and personal cost and put themselves in danger. They will provide food and comforts, safe resting places and listening ears - encouragement to the exhausted or elated young men. As Jews , the first supporters will be aware of Shaliah, the Jewish concept that when entertaining a master's servants or ambassadors it should be as if they entertain and support the important person themselves and they should treat the Apostles as if they were Jesus. They do not need to have seen Jesus Himself.

In supporting them they receive the reward of the Apostle's blessing and God's blessing.

This continues today. God calls people to facilitate and support wholeheartedly the international Christian missions and charities in the Name of Jesus. Jesus said that those will receive the same recognition in His eyes as those who actually go out to minister at the international work face.

God calls people to support and facilitate wholeheartedly the good Christian initiatives and organisations nationwide or more locally in the Name of Jesus. He recognised them too as if they were actually performing those ministries.

God calls those too who support wholeheartedly the 'little ones' who bring the Gospel message and healing in a quiet way. Even those who give just a much needed cup of water in the Name of Jesus will be recognised.

God who knows the number of hairs on your head and sees the little sparrow fall and He will reward you.

So let us give thanks for those twelve apostles and all their supporters and go in His Name where WE are called to be.

Let us reach out with love to people in His Name and face whatever sacrifices and challenges we have to face.

Let us support others wholeheartedly in His Name in the ways we are called to support them.

So strengthened by the Holy Spirit we all may serve Him as channels of His Peace, His Welcome, His Love, His Understanding and His Fellowship- wherever we are called ... today and every day.

We pray: - Breathe on us breath of God, Fill us with life anew that we may live what You would love and do what you would do.