



Week 2 – Mission

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Mission

*A time for prayer and silent meditation –
you may wish to light a candle.*



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

*“There is so much richness in our diocese
which we need to be open to encountering and receiving,
such diversity but all united together
in the power of the Spirit of the Risen Jesus.”*

Bishop Mark O’Toole

Opening Prayer – Prayer by Rachel McCarthy from CAFOD

God of hope, we cling to you,
for you renew the face of the earth.
Through the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus,
we follow you on the path of dawn.
Enlightened by your love and wisdom,
help us to lead each other and all creatures
back to your open arms.

Amen.

Readings – Luke 3: 1-6 – just before the start of Christ’s public ministry:

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar’s reign,
when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea,
Herod, tetrarch of Galilee,
his brother Philip, tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis,
Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,
during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas,
the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.
He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins,
as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:
‘A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.’

Matthew 28:18-20 – right at the end of Christ’s earthly ministry:

Jesus came and said to his disciples,
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.
And remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age.”

Reflection – Gerard W. Hughes SJ in “Cry of Wonder”

In his letter, ‘The Joy of the Gospel’, Pope Francis wrote:

I dream of a “missionary option”,
that is a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything,
so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things,
times and schedules, language and structures
can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world
rather than for her self-preservation.

We need to regain our missionary spirit
so that the call to holiness we heard in our baptism
is expressed by a change of direction.

Themes for Reflection

Like last week, if you are doing this reflection with others, try to listen actively and without judgment. Do not enter into debate but rather search for what the Holy Spirit might be saying through the other person; pay attention not only to the words but also to the tone and feelings of the speaker; and listen actively to yourself, mindful of your own thoughts and feelings as you speak. Whether alone or with others, always pause before saying anything, asking that the Holy Spirit might guide you.

Mission Questions –

1. What do I understand by ‘mission’ in my own life?
2. How am I called to be an active participant in the mission of the Church?
What is my role as a missionary disciple?
3. What spiritual sustenance and formation do I need to be more committed:
to the mission of the Parish?
to the mission of the Church?
4. What is the mission of our Parish community?
5. How does what our parish is doing relate to the Great Commission of Jesus:
“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them
in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (*Matt 28:18-20*)?
6. How does our Parish listen to the Spirit to identify
the missionary goals to be pursued?
7. What impact is our Parish making in the local area?
Do we make a difference?
8. What is the mission of the Diocese?
9. What is the mission of the whole Church?
10. How are we the universal Church adapting to the changing world
and the Missionary needs in our modern society?

You are very welcome, indeed encouraged to share your answers with the parish. All responses will be anonymised, and they will not be judged, but taken and shared with the diocese. E-mail to ElkValleyRC@gmail.com with the heading “Synod”