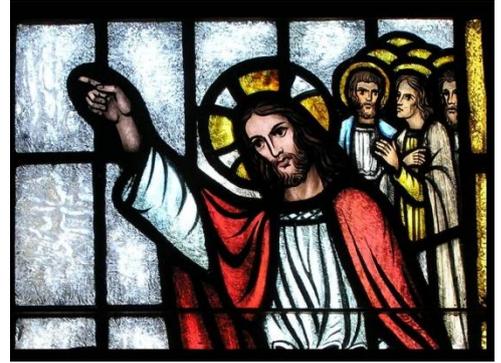


YEAR OF FAITH SESSION 6: THE NEW EVANGELISATION

- The “New Evangelisation” was called for in Vatican 2 and repeatedly by all the Popes since then.
- It is a particular move of the Holy Spirit in our day, calling the Church to find new ways of enabling the world to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Evangelisation is not just the job of priests and religious, it’s the basic duty of the people of God (i.e. all of us)
- But “duty” doesn’t mean it should be done through gritted teeth!
- We spread the Good News out of love for Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We don’t have to wait to feel adequate to the task – the Holy Spirit will equip us.
- In our ordinary lives, we can all do great things for God.
- The Church exists to evangelise, but it can so often be like a swimming club where everyone enjoys spectating and socialising, but nobody gets in the water!
- Jesus gave his disciples and the church the “Great Commission” in Matthew 28:16-20



¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Note that Jesus gives the instruction both to the worshippers and the doubters – this should encourage us.
- When Jesus says “GO” we have to do something, even though it would be more comfortable to do nothing.
- Making disciples means we have to stay with the task of teaching people, not abandon them.
- Baptising them means welcoming people into the family of the community
- We are called to teach, but we ourselves need to keep on learning – we never know it all
- Jesus promises to be with us, so we should keep our eyes on him, not on our own inadequacies.
- As we learn how to share the Good News, we should be passing on to others what we learn.

For reflection

- Who taught you about the love and forgiveness of God?
- How does it make you feel, when you think about God loving you?
- Who are you inviting to the Parish Mission?

Prayer

Thank you, Lord God, for your call to us.
Thank you that the Church exists to evangelise.
Thank you for commissioning us, your people.
Thank you that you call us to go, make disciples, baptise, and teach.
Most of all, thank you for your promise that you will be with us till the end of time. Amen

