

# Theme of the Week - Keep them

The mission of the Catholic Church is to evangelise and last Thursday, Ascension Thursday, we heard in the Gospel of Jesus telling the disciples to 'Go to every part of the world and tell everyone the Good News.' In the Gospel on Sunday, we hear Jesus as the good friend. He wants to keep us with him, just as none of us want to lose a friend. Friendship with Jesus is being with him, and being sent in his name. Our mission as his followers, as were the Apostles 2000 years ago, is to go into the midst of the world to share His news. Jesus wants his love and message inserted into the centre of the world. In following Him in mission and love, we are ourselves sanctified.

The word "apostle" comes from the Greek for 'one who is sent out' and is used of those who met the risen Lord. The Apostles shared what they had received with all those they baptized and they continued the work Jesus had started. We are the baptized of today and the same promises that Jesus made to the Apostles then belong to us now. You are literally preaching the good news to those around you when you answer the questions for the theme of the week sheet each day, when you talk about your faith, when you gather in assemblies, as a school community or at Church on Sunday. Jesus sends out his disciple to continue His work of bringing good news and this reminds us of the 'sending out' which occurs at every Mass when the priest or deacon says 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord'. Not all of us can go to the whole world, but all of us are called to bring the good news wherever we are in our daily lives. This call applies not only to people but also to all of creation. Jesus possesses the fullness of Godly life. This is what he leaves to us in his flesh and blood, the Eucharist. Prayer unites us to the sacrifice of Jesus who, all through his life, not just at Calvary, gave himself to us as teacher, healer, and protector - always as a loving friend. Jesus prays that the disciples be in communion with God and for their protection from the evil that surrounds them every day. Like ourselves, they are to find closeness with God and protection from harm even in the midst of the world.

The task that Jesus asks of us may not be easy. There will be some who rejoice in the message and others who will reject it. However, Jesus' presence with us will ensure that we can continue the work he started. What signs of hope accompany the work of the Church in the world today and the work that you are called to do?

Prayer helps and completes this daily sanctification, in our growing in closeness to Him. Jesus in the Gospel asks God to protect us, in prayer you are protected from God, ensure you go out and share the Good News!

# Keep them

Weekly Reflections  
12<sup>th</sup> May 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St John (17:11-19)  
Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us. While I was with them, I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures. But now I am coming to you and while still in the world I say these things to share my joy with them to the full. I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world. I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.'

## Day 1

Why does Jesus ask the disciples to go to every part of the world to preach the good news?

What is meant by the word sanctified and why do we achieve this by following Jesus in mission and love?

## Day 2

How are we like the Apostles when we talk about the teaching of Jesus?

How does Jesus protect us?

## Day 3

What signs of hope accompany the work of the Church in the world today and the work that you are called to do?

## Prayer for the Week

Loving God,

You call us all to the task of mission, to make known the Good News of Christ, to proclaim the Gospel to all we meet through words and deed. Continue to grant us your protection so that many will hear and respond.

Amen

**Saint of the week** - Julian of Norwich 13<sup>th</sup> May



Julian of Norwich, sometimes called Juliana was among the most remarkable saints in medieval England. Dame Julian, born during the Black Death, gained first-hand knowledge of the effects it caused to families and the loss of loved ones.

At 30, she experienced a series of intense visions of the Passion of Christ. Though she wrote about them at the time, twenty years later she described these episodes in much greater detail in *Revelations of the Divine Love*. Likely the first book written by a woman in English, it showed a remarkable knowledge of theology as well as exceptional psychological insight. Julian was

**Learned and Wise**