

## Theme of the Week - Harvest

This year, 2025, is a Jubilee Year in the Church, the Jubilee Year of Hope. In a letter written by the late Pope Francis he said about this year "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity."

In the Gospel on Sunday, Jesus knew he would need help if the message of God's love was to be taken to people throughout the world. He prepared his disciples to be sent out to prepare the people for him to come into their lives. We too are asked by God, through Francis, to embark on this journey, to bring Hope to others through love and peace just as Jesus wanted the disciples to share the love and peace of God through their actions and words.

When we reflect on the mission of 'bringing in the harvest', Jesus is implying that the planting and nurturing have been successfully completed and all is ready for the ministry of the missionaries. However, the harvesting itself is a dangerous occupation, and the missionaries are as vulnerable as lambs among wolves. Jesus directs them to take only the bare essentials - travel light. They are to trust God and depend on the hospitality of those who welcome them in. Jesus has not waited until the disciples are fully formed to send them on this mission - they will learn on the job.

We too have had the seed of Jesus planted within us; we know what it means to be followers of Him. Evangelisation is the main task of the Church, and each of us is responsible for this task. We too have been called by Francis to spread Hope to others. It's really easy for us to say, 'let others do it', 'but I don't think I'm ready' or 'I don't really know what I'm supposed to do?' Like the disciples, we too will learn on the job. We are to go to others offering peace, love and hope. No matter what the response is of others, we will not lose it ourselves. During this week, be **Intentional** and **Prophetic** to the harvest. Yes, it's not going to be easy at times, yes you may feel alone. But remember, God too will be by our side. Like Jesus needed the disciples, God too needs us to bring Hope to people who don't have it in their lives at this time.

# Harvest

Weekly Reflections  
6<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



## From the Gospel of Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20

At that time: The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house!" And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near." I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.'

### Prayer for the Week

Loving God,  
Allow us to truly listen and understand what you have sown in your Gospel messages to us. Help us to choose to do Your will today even in times of uncertainty and fear so we too can be like the disciples and harvest love and hope to others.  
Amen.

#### Day 1

What does Pope Francis ask of us during this Jubilee Year?  
How is this similar to what Jesus asked of the disciples?

#### Day 2

What is the message of bringing in the harvest?  
How can you be **Intentional** and **Prophetic** in harvesting Hope to others?

#### Day 3

Jubilee year of Hope  
Pledge - please see the PPT

### **Catholic Social Teaching - Stewardship**

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Genesis 2:15. We are guardians of God's creation, living sustainably and enhancing the wellbeing of our planet. Caring for the earth is integral to our task of tackling the scandal of global poverty, vulnerability, inequality, injustice and exclusion. Stewardship is all about caring for the many gifts that God has given to us. These include our environment, our own talents and other resources. The late Pope Francis said "Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home" Laudato Si' 13 and "...the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us." Laudato Si' 159.

How this half term can you promote Stewardship in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?