

# Reflections for Sunday 11 July 2021

Gospel – Mark 6:7-13



vs.7 Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits.

vs.8 And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses.

vs.9 They were to wear sandals but, he added, “Do not take a spare tunic.”

vs.10 And he said to them, “If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district.

vs.11 And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.”

vs.12 So they set off to preach repentance;

vs.13 and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

We talked about how the good people in the readings are hospitable and the community which welcomes and listens is where God is. This is the model we should aim to reproduce.

We went on to speak about the spiritual blessings we receive from God and how we must use these to put ourselves on the path to God. Without these graces and blessings we would be lost.

We spoke about how Jesus sent out the Apostles knowing what might have been going through their minds; it was as if He were testing them, making them trust in the support they would be given when sent out alone. It made us think that modern day missionaries are in a similar position, going into the unknown.

We spoke about how the Apostles were to stay in one place and this made us think about how so many people go from one church to another, looking for something that just doesn't exist. It's as if some one place is just not good enough or there is always somewhere better.

We were particularly struck by the first reading, how anyone can spread God's word and do His work. You don't have to be rich or powerful but nor do you have to be someone who would traditionally be thought of as very spiritual. It can be anyone, we don't have to be afraid.

Jesus sent the disciples out with no baggage. We are asked to spread the gospel, free from the baggage we carry personally and as Catholics. We ask for courage to be bold in talking, not about the Church, but about our relationship with Jesus and showing what that means by the way we live.