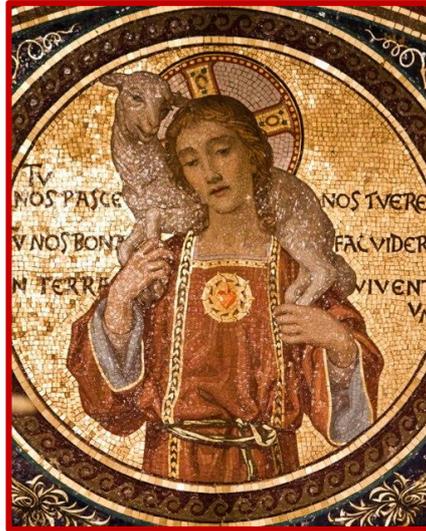


Reflections for Sunday 18 July 2021

Gospel – Mark 6:30-34



³⁰ The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught.

³¹ He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat.

³² So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.

³³ People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them.

³⁴ When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

We began by discussing the idea of Jesus as “the Good Shepherd” and how, even when we feel led astray or let down by society, we have Jesus as the good shepherd to look after us and to reassure us. We spoke about how we can follow the wrong shepherd sometimes in life and we forget that we have Jesus as a shepherd for us to put us on the right path.

God knows that we are looking for Him and knows when we need guidance.

We spoke about how there had been a separation between the Jews and the Gentiles and how Jesus had made them one people. He has made the whole World one and we all have access to God.

We also discussed the first reading “I will raise up shepherds who will look after my sheep and take them to good pasture” and there is a reference to a necessity for shepherds in the Gospel. This mirrors the need for leaders or vocations and there is a need for our leaders to take rest to avoid exhaustion. Our pastors need time to be with Jesus alone.

We spoke about the pity Jesus felt for the crowd and how He felt He had to preach to them purely because they were there.

There is a sense that, just by “being there” we will be spoken to by Jesus.