

3 JULY 2022

Sunday Message

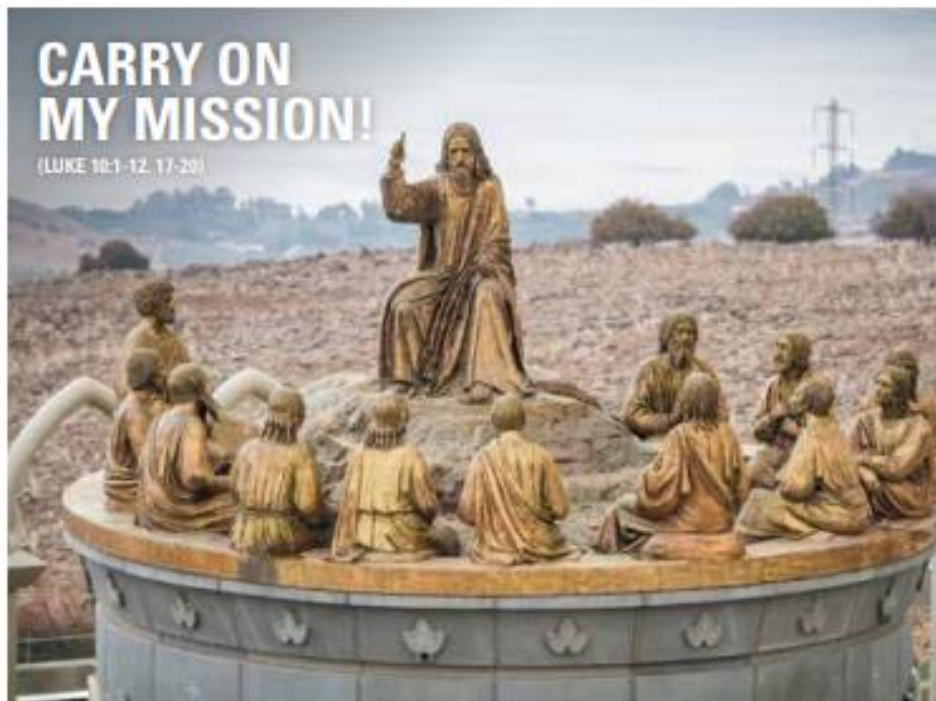
14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

CARRY ON MY MISSION!

(LUKE 10:1-12, 17-20)



Statues of Jesus and the Twelve Apostles on the Mount of Beatitudes near the Sea of Galilee

Not long before the episode which we heard about in our Gospel reading today, Jesus had sent out the Twelve on a mission of preaching the Kingdom, accompanied and illustrated by works of healing and exorcism.

Now, Jesus sends out a larger group with a similar commission and they come back to report that their mission has been successful. We might note that, for Luke, the Twelve are essentially disciples of Jesus among a wider group. They have been specially chosen from this larger number, among whom Luke specifically mentions women by name. Thus, the sending of the seventy-two mirrors the sending of the Twelve.

The twelve apostles represent symbolically the twelve tribes of Israel. They are, in the Gospel tradition, essentially witness to the risen Jesus, but are eclipsed very shortly by the deacons and then by the apostle Paul, who had not known Jesus during Jesus' earthly life. Luke shows that Jesus includes the wider group of disciples in his mission: it is not restricted to Peter and the other members of the Twelve.

Jesus tells the disciples that if the citizens of a town refuse them hospitality, a sacred duty in the culture of the time and place, "it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town." The sin of Sodom to which Jesus refers was the breach of the law of hospitality, which is the reason why the disciples should leave, shaking off the very dust of the place as a sign to those who failed to live up to their obligations to the stranger and traveller. ■

LEARN

Luke consistently shows Jesus accompanied by a wider group of disciples than just the twelve male apostles.

Among this larger group were women.

The sin of Sodom was essentially a breach of the law of hospitality, which enjoined the hosts to protect and shelter the traveller and stranger.

DO

Extend the sign of peace to your neighbour: remember that we are all disciples of Jesus, sharing in his mission.



REFLECT

It is worth keeping in mind that in Luke's account of Jesus and his ministry, Jesus is consistently accompanied by a wider group of disciples than simply the Twelve, including women whom Luke, unusually, mentions by name. These disciples, "the whole crowd", were with Jesus at his entry into Jerusalem, when he went to Gethsemane, so it does not make sense to say that they disappeared at the celebration of the Passover, which was essentially a domestic and family occasion. The larger group was also present at Pentecost, along with Mary, the mother of Jesus.

A picture is worth a thousand words, as they saying goes. Sometimes, this can be very telling and capture the spirit of the scene, as when the Magi are presented with different racial features and characteristics. But it can also limit our imagination and influence our understanding of the biblical text. So, were the disciples Jesus sent out only male persons? Were only Jesus and the twelve male apostles present at the Last Supper? Is our understanding of that event influenced by Leonardo da Vinci's famous fresco or by Luke's Gospel narrative? Where were the other male disciples, the women – and, therefore, presumably, the children?

When Luke talks about 'disciples', he does not mean simply 'the Twelve Apostles'. When we listen to the Gospel, we might keep this wider meaning in mind – and include ourselves among the disciples. ■



The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci in the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie

SAY

The Kingdom of God is near to me.
(Luke 10:9)

Parishes of Dromara and Drumgooland

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14th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 3 July 2022

Weekday masses

Mon 9:00am Leitrim 7:30pm Dechomet
Tues 9:00am Dromara
Wed 7:30pm Leitrim
Fri 7:30pm Dromara

Weekend masses

Sat 6:00pm Dechomet
7:30pm Leitrim
Sun 9:00am Gargory
11:00am Dromara

I will attend the sick and housebound on 4th, 5th and 6th July

Collections	Dromara	Drumgooland
Parish	£ 154	£392

Recently deceased Susan Maginn, Rathfriland

Anniversary Masses

Dechomet

Sat 2nd Bernard, Margaret and Patrick Doyle
Catherine Doyle and Cecelia O'Hare
Mon 4th William and Elizabeth Burns

Leitrim

Sat 2nd Sarah Lennon
Tony Clarke
Francie and Eamonn Clarke
Charlie Keown
Mon 4th John Blaney; Bernard Cunningham
Wed 6th Brendan Ward and Deceased Family Members

Dromara

Sun 3rd Margaret Marmiom and Deceased Family Members
Brannigan Family
Peter Wilson
Fri 8th Maureen McKay (Castlewellan Road)
Stephen O'Hare
Sun 10th Kevin Doyle

Mission Awareness

A priest from St Patrick's Missionary society (Kiltegan) will speak at all masses on 9th / 10th July.

St Patrick's Missionary Society - 1932 Foundations

The first three members were: Fr PJ Whitney, who was appointed Superior General, his cousin Fr Patrick Francis Whitney, who had worked in Nigeria and Fr Francis Hickey, a priest who had spent some time in Australia. They took the oath of membership on St. Patrick's Day, 1932, the day that Ireland was celebrating the 1,500th Anniversary of the coming of St Patrick to Ireland.

The initial concentration of the Society men was in Calabar and soon after in Ogoja, in the South East of Nigeria. Over the years the numbers of priests increased greatly. The particular concern of the priests was primary evangelization, the preaching of Christianity to those who had not heard of it before.

There was also a strong commitment to the work of education and, in cooperation with the Medical Missionaries of Mary, care for those suffering from leprosy. James Moynagh was appointed Bishop of Calabar in 1947. Thomas McGettrick was appointed Bishop of Ogoja in 1955 and Bishop of Abakaliki in 1973. Ned Fitzgibbon became Prefect Apostolic of Minna, in the north of Nigeria in 1964. In these years the Society flourished in Nigeria.

The secession of Biafra in 1967, and the subsequent war with Federal Nigeria, were dark days for the country. Members of the Society stayed throughout the war and suffered alongside the people, which was much appreciated: a very authentic Christian witness.

In recent years, as the Society ages, the number of men working in Nigeria has declined. At the same time Nigeria remains very important to the future of the Society, as it is one of the centres for the formation of future members of the Society. The initial formation house was established in Ijebu-Ode in 1997. To date thirteen young Nigerians have been ordained as members of St Patrick's Missionary Society and have ministered in Nigeria, Kenya, Brazil and South Africa.

Over the years, Diocesan volunteer priests have made a huge contribution to the work of the Society in Nigeria, providing a close link with the origins of the Society.