



SUNDAY 11 JULY 2021
DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

The Parishes of: Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

Fifteenth Sunday of the Year (B): Mark 6:7-13

“Eee, you haven’t changed a bit!” Was the comment from someone I hadn’t seen for many years. It was meant as a compliment and accepted as such. But if I hadn’t changed a lot over that time, I’d be seriously frustrating God’s designs.

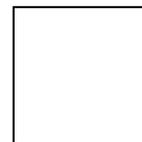
Life’s demands, unexpected events, the care of others, the work we do and the friends we acquire all stretch our views and abilities. Adapting, learning, improvising, failing and succeeding are all descriptions of wobbly growth. We wander off piste. Being where we’ve never been before, navigating new terrain and unforeseen difficulties serve to speed up our brain’s neuron traffic big time.

Jesus began sending the Twelve out to do what he did. Working in pairs was a great support. It chanced comment and insight. These men went out in trust with barely anything but the clothes they were wearing – and the power of God. Unencumbered by baggage they relied on God’s Spirit and trusted in the kindness of strangers. It’s a risky business. I hope we do it more than we suspect. Allowing the Lord to work through us, we find him already ahead of us.

We shouldn’t be surprised. The God who chose us before the world was made, never fails to teach. It’s sad if we fail to learn. In the hands of God we are our greatest resource. Pondering and reflection are requirements. They do not leave us unchanged. Watch Jesus – the plight of the poor and the needy are the drivers of change.

Often our life experience and the activity of God are not seen as the work of the Spirit or described in religious language. When the waters of baptism were poured over us we entered into partnership with God’s Spirit. Becoming like Jesus – we call it Christening – is a process, not an isolated event. We’re walking through the waters of baptism all our lives.

Be still. Don’t overlook today’s second reading from the letter to the Ephesians. Descriptions of ourselves tumble over one another in an attempt to expose our identity (Ephesians 1:3-14. Read it. Slowly and more than once). We do pray that the Father will open the eyes of our minds. It happened to the Twelve. May it continue in us.



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Pope Francis on caring for our Common Home

A path of productive development, which is more creative and better directed, could correct the present disparity between excessive technological investment in consumption and insufficient investment in resolving urgent problems facing the human family. It could generate intelligent and profitable ways of re-using, revamping and recycling, and it could also improve the energy efficiency of cities.

Productive diversification offers the fullest possibilities to human ingenuity to create and innovate, while at the same time protecting the environment and creating more sources of employment. Such creativity would be a worthy expression of our most noble human qualities, for we would be striving intelligently, boldly and responsibly to promote a sustainable and equitable development within the context of a broader concept of quality of life. On the other hand, to find ever new ways of despoiling nature, purely for the sake of new consumer items and quick profit, would be, in human terms, less worthy and creative, and more superficial.

Laudato Si para 192