



SUNDAY 18 JUNE 2023

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

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

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

11th Sunday of the Year (A) Matthew 9: 36-10:8

Did you have a nickname at school - or a pet name in family circles? Some individuals go right through life being called by names not on birth certificates!

The mere mention of a name can bring heaps of associated memories, baggage perhaps, excitement and delight or maybe boredom, wariness or dread. Our names are loaded. They carry what we mean to others.

What for you is evoked by the name of Jesus? It's a prayer in its own right. To sit quietly and repeat the name over and over can be balm to soothe the mind, direct our love and, more importantly, invite him into our thinking, consciously sharing our time. In fact, the Lord encourages the very habit, "Make your home in me, as I make mine in you" (John 15:4). Jesus is already here in us. Settle down with him if you will. Call him by name as he has called us, "I have called you by your name. you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1). This names business is worth thinking about.

In our Gospel today we're given the names of the twelve apostles. A motley crew. Disparate and distinctive characters. We know precious little about most of them - but the Lord named them as he names you and I. The early Church names them for us in Matthew's Gospel today. They became quiet or not so quiet celebrities of their time, significant carriers of the experience of Jesus among them, their lives shaped and changed through their association with the Son of God. Some of them had name changes. Jesus changed Simon into Peter. James and John were nicknamed 'the sons of thunder'. It's a cliché to ask 'What's in a name?', but the response has to describe or hint at a whole world of associations.

God has written your name. As he sent out the twelve with no baggage, devoid of clobber and dependent on the power of God, so he sends us. He possibly has a personal descriptive name for each of us - we'll get to know it one day. Our jobs are not the same, our names linked to family and world history. Jesus 'of Nazareth', Simon 'son of John', James 'son of Zebedee', John called 'the Baptist', 'son of Zachariah and Elizabeth' and so on, always strings attached.

Rejoice in people. Speak names with respect. Celebrate birthdays - the day the world changed because X came into it. We all make impact, aware of it or not. But 'At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him, 'King of Glory now'. What happened in your name? Care to think about it?



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Pope Francis on discrimination

I would like to mention some of those 'hidden exiles' who are treated as foreign bodies in society. Many persons with disabilities feel that they exist without belonging and without participating. Much still prevents them from being fully enfranchised. Our concern should be not only to care for them but to ensure their active participation in the civil and ecclesial community. That is a demanding and even tiring process, yet one that will gradually contribute to the formation of consciences capable of acknowledging each individual as a unique and unrepeatable person. I think, too, of the elderly who, also due to their disability, are sometimes considered a burden. Yet each of them is able to offer a unique contribution to the common good through their remarkable life stories. Let me repeat: we need to have the courage to give a voice to those who are discriminated against due to their disability, because sadly, in some countries even today, people find it hard to acknowledge them as persons of equal dignity.

- Fratelli tutti para 98