



# SUNDAY 04 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

#### Fourteenth Sunday of the Year (B) Mark 6: 1-6

Children starting school this year will retire from work round about 2080 or maybe earlier. What will the world be like then?

If hopes are realised, the UK will have met Net Zero carbon emissions 30 years before. Technology will have changed generations. Do you find yourself not wanting to know more or are you excited or sceptical about the whole thing? How well do we each cope with change, with the unknown and the unpredictable?

It seems every generation worries about the next. People worried about us. Newborns don't enter the world carrying the accumulated experience and baggage of their parents. Beyond sensible cautions, should our fears hold them back? They'll be using technologies yet to be invented in ways we can't imagine and in jobs that don't yet exist. We need to be as flexible as we can be. Open to new possibilities.

Denying change or wanting to stop the clock limits us greatly and not only us. The neighbours who grew up with Jesus thought he was getting way above his station when he taught in their local synagogue. They'd know him as a carpenter. They thought they knew enough of his family background to reject him as a teacher and healer. Such can be the small-mindedness of small communities and the corrosive power of gossip.

My knowledge and yours is limited. Our choices fit within our perceived capabilities. The bigger world and its wonders and potential should invite rather than frighten us. Jesus entered his creation to set us free. Made in God's image and likeness, we're here to care for and grace our world, to fight its exploitation and stand out against greed. His love of the poor and the voiceless challenge our own use of resources. Privilege and power are to enhance equality rather than diminish the dignity we all share.

Jesus was amazed at the lack of faith of neighbours whose faces he knew well. Gazing round each church congregation would he find individuals open to following him readily? Does he walk too fast for us? How stuck are we in deciding what our God should be like, how and where he should lead us, how big or limiting his views on loving God and neighbour?

His invitation is gentle and insistent. He comes to open our hearts and minds to new understanding, reminding us we still have much to learn, to receive and to do. Don't miss the bus. Journey into the mystery of a love without limit. Tickets are free.



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#### Pope Francis on caring for the Earth

We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels - especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas - needs to be progressively replaced without delay. Until greater progress is made in developing widely accessible sources of renewable energy, it is legitimate to choose the lesser of two evils or to find short-term solutions.

But the international community has still not reached adequate agreements about the responsibility for paying the costs of this energy transition. In recent decades, environmental issues have given rise to considerable public debate and have elicited a variety of committed and generous civic responses. Politics and business have been slow to react in a way commensurate with the urgency of the challenges facing our world. Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities.

Worldwide, the ecological movement has made significant advances, thanks also to the efforts of many organisations of civil society. It is impossible here to mention them all, or to review the history of their contributions. But thanks to their efforts, environmental questions have increasingly found a place on public agendas and encouraged more far sighted approaches. This notwithstanding, recent World Summits on the environment have not lived up to expectations because, due to lack of political will, they were unable to reach truly meaningful and effective global agreements on the environment.