

OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA, WEYMOUTH
HOMILY FOR THE 2nd ORDINARY SUNDAY (B)
18th JANUARY 2015

Before we start our regular reading from St. Mark's Gospel we have one from St. John which tells us something about Jesus and his disciples that no other Gospel does.

The time is just after John has baptised Jesus.

The place is the Jordan valley not far from the place of Jesus' baptism. John was standing with two of his own disciples when Jesus passed by. One of these was Andrew. Imagine the scene.

John points out Jesus to his disciples by saying: "Behold the lamb of God," just as the priest at Mass points out Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament before we receive him in Holy Communion.

John's disciples are so fascinated by Jesus that they follow him, not daring to speak to him.

Then Jesus turns round and says, "What do you want?"

They were confused and probably embarrassed so they say the first thing that came into their minds: "Where do you live?"

They did not really want to know where he lived but who he was.

Jesus knows this but spares them more embarrassment by answering their question directly: "Come and see."

This gives him the opportunity to answer their real question. It gives them the space and time to talk. They "stayed with him the rest of the day" and became his disciples.

They were so happy with Jesus that they went straight out next morning to introduce Andrew's brother, Peter, to Jesus. He stayed too.

This Sunday the Church is focussing its prayers on peace.

We know how deeply peace is desired and how much destroys peace from the action of terrorists and the violence of crime and negligence which kills our loved ones to the betrayal of trust and love in families and friends

Jesus speaks to us through the Gospel today: "What do you want?"

Would not most people answer peace –an end to violence, an end to worry, an end to poverty an end to personal conflict and abuse, peace of mind?

Many people ask, “Where is God in all this suffering”

Jesus answers our question by saying, “Come and see.”

He invites us to spend time with him, the rest of the day if you want to. Time spent with Jesus is prayer.

Mass is the greatest prayer of the Church, but we may need something more personal, so prayer alone in church or at home in a holy corner with a visible reminder of Jesus may be the place where Jesus meets us.

If we have his Gospel open we can read and hear his words spoken to us.

It may take another person to answer our prayers, so let’s be alert to the needs of each other. Each one of us may be the answer to someone else’s prayer.

Our prayer will be answered when we regain peace of mind, trust in God and other people, hope that good will triumph over evil; the experience of love.

Our First Holy Communion children have been thinking about friendship.

They have discovered that friends are a gift from God, an answer to prayer.

They have also discovered that Jesus wants to be friends with us.

St. Aelred believed that friendship was a special gift from God He said: “By the law of love we are ordered to welcome not only our friends but our enemies. But we call friends only those to whom we have no hesitation about entrusting our heart and all its contents.”

Let’s pray for such friends.

Lasting peace is found in true friendship with people and with God.

Rev Geoffrey Carey