

**OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA, WEYMOUTH**  
**HOMILY FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017**

Our readings are all about being chosen by God.

In the first reading the Lord says to Isaiah, "You are my servant." God has *chosen* Isaiah to be his servant.

Paul says that he has been *appointed* by God to be an apostle.

John the Baptist tells us that he has seen Jesus and is certain that Jesus is the *Chosen* One of God. John knew that God had chosen him to prepare the way for Jesus.

Jesus went on to tell his own disciples that he had *chosen* them to be, not servants, but friends.

We, too, are his *chosen* people. As such we often think about what God wants us to do for him, but, in our confirmation class, we were wondering what God wants for us.

All the readings tell us that God gives us a purpose in life, something to do.

Isaiah's purpose was to save his people from unhappiness.

Paul's purpose was to announce the Good News that Jesus will save us.

Jesus' purpose was to make God's promise to Isaiah and Paul come true.

Yes, we do have to do things for God; not because God wants to make our lives hard but because having a purpose, having something good to do will make our lives happier. God wants us to be happy; to be more precise God wants us to live in peace.

Anyone who was at Mass on Friday or read the first reading will have heard God's promise in the Letter to the Hebrews, the promise of God's rest. God wants us to have a share in the rest that he enjoyed when he had finished creating the world.

Let's try to imagine that rest.

God had achieved all that God wanted to and it was good, perfectly good.

God could feel a sense of fulfilment, a dream realised, perfect peace of soul.

God's rest was more than rest from work; it was rest from anxiety and disappointment and grief.

There was nothing to disturb that peace, and that's what God wants for us.

Today Pope Francis with the whole Church invites us to pray for that peace.

Many people fear that we are moving further away from that peace, that our world is becoming more unstable, dangerous and frightening. But God wants us to live in his peace.

Jesus came to give us this peace, a peace that the world cannot give.

How are we to realise this peace?

Spiritually we have to believe that God is still offering it to us and have the faith to believe this. There is no peace without faith. Practically we could take a hint from our First Holy Communion children.

They have thought that the best way to peace is to treat everyone as a potential friend. They have thought about what makes a good friend. They have thanked God for the love of their family where peace begins.

They have thought of Mass as being a gathering of the friends of Jesus, friends with Jesus and friends with each other.

We offer each other the sign of peace before receiving Holy Communion.

The next step is to offer the sign of peace to people outside church.

Let's spread that sign of peace as far as we can, to anyone who will receive it, with no one excluded.

That's the first step. That's what God has chosen for us.

**Rev Geoffrey Carey**