

'THE MISSION OF JESUS & MODERN COMPLIANCE STANDARDS' – 15 JULY 2018

15th Sunday Ordinary Time

PROCESS

HOW CAN THE GOSPEL HELP US TODAY IN SEEING THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY COMPLIANCE?
HOW CAN THE GOSPEL HELP US WHEN WE FEEL SWAMPED BY ITS PAPERWORK?

You are invited to a **THREE-STEP PROCESS**:

STEP 1, read the terms and concepts listed below.

STEP 2, read slowly and pray today's Gospel.

STEP 3, match up where a Gospel word, phrase or sentence can be placed next to the relevant terms and concepts from the list given below.

Some Gospel quotes may be placed next to more than one term.

HINTS

Hints in understanding the gospel passage.

- Biblical law for valid testimony in Deuteronomy 17:6 and 19:15 required two witnesses
- The mission of Jesus requires that his followers be on a journey
- The need to travel light, as we have seen in the example of Jesus in previous chapters
- There is a relevant preceding quote in Mark 3:13-16a:

"He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him.

And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, and to have authority to cast out demons. So he appointed the twelve"

- In Mark 3:16b-19 we are informed of the names of the apostles

The formation is both personal and communal

- The conclusion of this account is in verses MARK 6:30-32

"The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves, and rest a while.'

For many were coming and going,

And they had no leisure even to eat.

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. "

- We focus on the Gospel of this Sunday with the *Sending Out of the Twelve*

If you have time during the week,

you might like to read some other sending-forth Gospel accounts:

the *sending of the seventy others* in Luke 10:1-12

the *sending of Mary of Magdala* in John 20:11-18

the *commissioning of the Eleven* in Mathew 28:16-20

and the *threefold call to Peter* to feed the lambs and tend the sheep of Jesus in John 21:15-19.

STEP 1. LIST OF TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Mission:

Formation:

Educational Model:

Commissioning:

Professional Standards:

Dress code:

Finance guidelines:

Risk Assessment:

Conflict management:

Gender equality:

Cultural factors:

Religious Freedom:

Coping Mechanisms;

Inclusivity:

Authority:

Work Health and Safety strategies:

Privacy protection:

Task description:

Hospitality:

Evaluation:

Debriefing:

Renewal:

Rest:

Relationships:

And you may add other terms.

STEP 2. READING THE GOSPEL OF MARK 6:7-13

Leaving the terms aside for the moment, read the Gospel passage below. And then you might like to pray the reading again, acknowledging where the Holy Spirit prompts you.

*'He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.
He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.
He said to them,
'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.'
So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.'*

[Pause and Recollect]

STEP 3. MATCHING THE TEXT OF THE GOSPEL & THE TERMS & CONCEPTS IN THE LIST ABOVE

You are invited now to complete the matching of quotes and terms side by side, by **placing the relevant Gospel quotes** from today's Gospel and the two (2) other Gospel quotes given above, **next to the terms and concepts in the list above.**

For example, you might match the quote *'no money in their belts'* with 'Finance guidelines'.

For example, you might match several times the quote *'began to send them out two by two'* with 'Risk Assessment' and with 'Mission' and with 'Professional Standards' and with 'Cultural factors'. Take some time to match on paper, parts of the gospel passage with modern terms and concepts above.

For example, the verses 6:30-32 might match with the terms 'Debriefing', and with 'Renewal', and with 'Rest'.

Next to some terms, you, personally, might not have a relevant quote.

CONCLUSION: MISSION & MODERN COMPLIANCE

The purpose of this homily is not to be boring, but ***to reflect on the Gospel in an additional way***, relating to working life and safety requirements today.

We have followed the Royal Commission findings on institutional abuse. And heard of the horrendous criminal acts committed by churches

and other institutions in Australia.

And we know the need for major change in the church's culture in Australia.

HOW IN CHURCH THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE, DO WE UNDERSTAND
CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION
AS **ESSENTIAL** TO LOVING GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOUR?

HOW IN CHURCH THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE, DO WE UNDERSTAND
THE NEED FOR A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT
AS **ESSENTIAL** TO LOVING GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOUR?

If someone says to you
that there is nothing in the Gospels about compliance standards,
this reflection might help you to show them how to look.

If someone says to you
that they are overwhelmed with work compliance paperwork,
this reflection might help you to show them how to look
again into our mission in Jesus and our formation in faith.

HOW IN CHURCH THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE, DO WE ARTICULATE THE NEED
FOR **ESSENTIAL** ONGOING FORMATION, PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY INTERACTION,
PRAYER, RENEWAL AND REST IN CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP?

The four Gospels reveal how Jesus formed his disciples, prepared them,
challenged them, commissioned them, debriefed them,
taught them how to pray, and how to bring everything to prayer,
taught them how to lead, how to face the challenges of that day.
He formed them for discipleship nearly 2,000 years ago.

IN WHAT WAYS DO WE LISTEN TO JESUS TODAY, SO AS TO BE FORMED AS DISCIPLES NOW?

We begin to see our mission and its implementation
through the eyes of **dignity and accountability and transparency**.
And through the eyes of protecting the lives of our neighbours (**safety**).
And at the core – being in love with God, and loving God and our neighbour.

And at the same time, we are aware
that we should not lose sight
of our core mission, spirituality and relationship with God,
even as parishes spend many hours in compliance and assessments.

Parish life has changed in the last few years in Queensland,
with Blue Cards for working with children,
Archdiocesan child safety training courses, privacy policy,
Codes of ethical standard,
new Archdiocesan rules in 2018 using a wider interpretation for categories
requiring national police checks,

more Work Health and Safety requirements, and other policies.

We see changes in the **responsibilities** and **allocation of time** of parish priests, parish secretaries, pastoral associates, sacramental coordinators, School leadership teams, parish youth leaders, care and concern leaders, parish pastoral councils, parish finance councils, children's liturgy teams, nursing home visitors, and the many other ministries in parish life today.

And a major question being asked in some parishes –

HOW DO WE ADAPT ARCHDIOCESAN STRUCTURES
TO FACILITATE A MORE EFFICIENT WAY OF COMPLIANCE?

WHAT WAS IT LIKE 2,000 YEARS AGO DURING THE MINISTRY OF JESUS?

WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE CULTURE OF SAFETY AND INCLUSIVITY?

WHAT STILL NEEDS TO CHANGE?

HOW DO WE LIVE OUR MISSION, OUR RESPONSIBILITIES, OUR SPIRITUALITY
AND OUR LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER TODAY?

AN OPPORTUNITY TO REST IN JESUS

Next Sunday, July 22nd, we have the time to be by ourselves in our twilight retreat, from 4pm to 7pm in our peaceful church and grounds.

Sister Maeve Heaney will guide us in this time of being with Jesus.

Afterwards, for those who wish to remain for a catered meal, dinner will be provided. The acceptance list is at the church table for you to sign.

PRAY

Let us pray as we live our faith in Jesus with its many responsibilities, knowing that, like the early apostles, Jesus knows each of us.

Amen.

Fr Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/071518.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook15072018>]



GOSPEL OF MARK

"He called
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HOMILY: 'THE MISSION OF JESUS & MODERN COMPLIANCE STANDARDS'

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