

MOVING TOGETHER, AS A TEAM, IN PARTNERSHIP

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 9 July 2023



FOUR SECTIONS & ONE UPDATE

Today we have four sections of the homily and an update on Father Minje's commitments.

1. A question from the Ordination homily of Archbishop Mark, when he ordained Minje, Isaac and Gerard as priests.
2. A future direction of the Catholic Church
3. Our Parish Prayer Retreat this month
4. Today's Gospel of MATTHEW 11:25-30
5. Update on Father Minje's availability

1. ORDINATION HOMILY

At the Ordination of Minje, Isaac and Gerard on June 29th, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, in his [homily](#), spoke of the present and the future church.

He said that *"we need to think differently about leadership in the Church. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, synodality invites us to think of leadership in terms of a team – a team which will have a priest, but which will also include lay and perhaps Religious leaders."*

In forming the team, we will ask not the administrative question: where are the gaps and who do we have to fill them, but the charismatic question: to whom has God given the gifts needed for leadership in a community which may well be a larger configuration than the parishes we have known, a community of communities – not an amalgamation cancelling identity but a communion respecting the identity of each community."

Archbishop Mark's homily is available at https://bit.ly/AMC_OrdinationHomily_29062023

2. A FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Let us ask the first part of that key question once more.

"to whom has God given the gifts needed for leadership?"

There are many components in replying to this question.

Today we reflect on one of those criteria - **the ministry of women**.
Hence this title – a future direction of the Catholic Church.

During the week, we focussed, in our parish social media, on the ministry of women as a part of the discussions and discernment to come in the October Synod in Rome.

PARISH ADULT EDUCATION SERIES: CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER, PART 3
[RECOGNITION & PROMOTION OF THE BAPTISMAL DIGNITY OF WOMEN](http://bit.ly/Reflection02072023)
<http://bit.ly/Reflection02072023>

According to the world-wide response to the Synodality processes, there are at least three dimensions of leadership and community.
The gifts are given that so the community
Becomes **“A Communion that radiates”**
Shares **“Co-responsibility in Mission”**
Is genuine through **“Participation, governance and authority”**.

Some Synodal reflections on the baptismal dignity of women in leadership include:

- *“deeper reflection on the ecclesial relational failures, which are also structural failures affecting the lives of women in the Church, inviting us into a process of ongoing conversion”*
- *“women’s participation and recognition, of mutually supportive relationships between men and women and the desire for a greater presence of women in positions of responsibility and governance”*
- *“greater recognition of women’s baptismal dignity and rejection of all forms of discrimination and exclusion faced by women in the Church and society”*
- *“How can women contribute to governance, helping to promote greater accountability and transparency and strengthen trust in the Church?”*
- *“... the question of women’s inclusion in the diaconate to be considered. Is it possible to envisage this, and in what way?”*

How will the Synod respond?

It is asking for concrete actions as it highlights this next question:

“What concrete steps can the Church take to renew and reform its procedures, institutional arrangements and structures to enable greater recognition and participation of women, including in governance, decision-making processes and in the taking of decisions, in a spirit of communion and with a view to mission?”

Vatican News carries an article on the delegates [here](#)

The list of delegates and other participants is available on this link in Italian [here](#)

3. PARISH RETREAT

As a parish community,

- in remembering the earlier open night parish discussion with Archdiocesan Consultors
 - in cherishing the giftedness of parish members
 - in celebrating the journey of Father Minje,
 - in welcoming Monsignor John Grace as resident priest for August,
 - and in welcoming Father Bryan Pipins as our new parish priest in September
- we have a wonderful opportunity to gather in prayer this month.

On Sunday July 23rd, in a relaxed and prayerful atmosphere, we will have an opportunity from 1pm until 4pm

- to pray about we have come from,
- and where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Father Frank Jones, a spiritual director, a missionary and former Holy Spirit Seminary Vice-Rector, will lead our parish community in prayerful reflection.

Details are in the newsletter.

This initiative grew out of our Parish Pastoral Council discussions.

Thank you Father Minje for inviting Father Frank to facilitate our time of prayerful reflection.

Margaret, our Parish Ministry Coordinator, is the contact person for the retreat.

Thank you, Margaret.

4. GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 11:25-30

In today's Gospel, we hear that no one group holds all the wisdom.

The meaning and purpose of human existence are not a secret owned by a select group of the wisest and most intelligent, nor today owned by the wealthiest and most powerful.

The Gospel reads:

"At that time Jesus said,

*'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent
and have revealed them to infants;
yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. "*

Jesus calls us to be in solidarity with God and each other.

The Gospel reads:

*'Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'* "

Let us highlight a few words in the passage:

I love this invitational and relational call by Jesus to us.

After twelve years of sharing the *Word of God* in our parish family,

I looked back to my homilies on this Gospel text, on a Sunday in July in 2020 and in 2017,

as we focused on the relationships within this invitation from Jesus.

Come to **ME**,

all **YOU** that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,

and **I** will give **YOU** rest.

Take **MY** yoke upon **YOU**, and learn from **ME**;

for **I** am gentle and humble in heart,

and **YOU** will find rest for **YOUR** souls.

For **MY** yoke is easy, and **MY** burden is light.'

We understand more deeply the relationship that Jesus offers us.

The invitation of Jesus to come to him,

bringing our pain and troubles and weariness.

We bring our concerns to Jesus in prayer.

A yoke was a wooden neck frame between two animals,

helping them to pull together, making it easier.

We could imagine two oxen pulling in different directions.

What a mess. Making it so difficult.

Yet with a frame, they go in the same direction,

together, as a team, in partnership.

Jesus invites us, in love, to pull together with Him.

If we don't, we make it so hard for ourselves.

Jesus did not say the yoke is easy.

He said, "**My** yoke is easy".

Jesus did not say the burden is light.

He said, "**My** burden is light".

Pulling against each other through sin, makes our burden so heavy.

We strain ourselves unnecessarily.

We say that we can be our own worst enemy.

Pulling together involves **humility**.

It involves the **gentleness** of Jesus.

It involves learning from Jesus.

Working together with Jesus in love.

Pulling together also implies resting.

In Genesis we hear that God rested on the seventh day.

God sets the example.

We too need time for rest from work and pressure,

and time for renewal.

TIME TO REST WITH GOD.

The Parish Prayer Retreat on July 23 offer us the opportunity for:

- a time for rest from work and pressure,
- a time for renewal.
- a time to rest with God.

5. FATHER MINJE'S AVAILABILITY

Next weekend Father Minje will be the main celebrant at the three Weekend Masses as well as the Friday 14th and Monday 17th 9am Masses.

He will be available to bless people individually after each Mass.

There will be a morning tea after the 9.30am Mass.

We pray for Minje in his calling to Ipswich Parish which begins on Saturday 22nd July.

From December 22nd last year to July this year, you have gifted us with your ministry, spirituality, commitment to people and your presence.

On behalf of our parish family, St Joseph's School and St John Fisher College, we thank you Minje.

As a parish community, we pray to Jesus to enable us always

- to be *A Communion that radiates*.
- to share *Co-responsibility in Mission*
- and be genuine in our *Participation, governance and authority*.

May we grow in our love of God and of our neighbour.

May we grow together, as a team, in partnership.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/070923.cfm>