



Ordinary Time Summer 2020

We gather together in our homes to join in prayer with all members of our Parish Community.



Fourteenth Tuesday of Ordinary Time

7th July 2020

A man was brought to Jesus, a dumb demoniac. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb man spoke and the people were amazed. 'Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel' they said. But the Pharisees said, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts out devils.'

Jesus made a tour through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness.

And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

Matthew 9:32-37

Christ is the shepherd of his flock: he loves and cares for his people. We turn to him in trust and say: – **Lord, we need your care.**

Christ our Lord, you are pastor of all the ages, protect our Bishop, **Malcolm**, and all the pastors of your Church. – **Lord, we need...**

Be with those who are persecuted for their faith, and those cut off from the support of the Church: Good Shepherd, in their pain and isolation may they know your care. – **Lord, we need your care.**

Bring healing to the sick; give nourishment to the hungry. – **Lord, we....**

We remember those who make our laws and those who apply them: Lord, give them wisdom and discernment. – **Lord, we need your care.**

Gather the flock for which you laid down your life: bring home to their Father's house all who have died in your peace. – **Lord, we need...**

The Gospel says that "Jesus went about all the cities and villages... When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest'" (Mt 9:35-38). These words surprise us, because we all know that it is necessary first to plow, sow and cultivate to then, in due time, reap an abundant harvest. Jesus says instead that "the harvest is plentiful". But who did the work to bring about these results? There is only one answer: God. Clearly the field of which Jesus is speaking is humanity, us. And the efficacious action which has borne "much fruit" is the grace of God, that is, communion with Him (cf. Jn 15:5). The prayer which Jesus asks of the Church therefore concerns the need to increase the number of those who serve his Kingdom. Saint Paul, who was one of "God's fellow workers", tirelessly dedicated himself to the cause of the Gospel and the Church. The Apostle, with the awareness of one who has personally experienced how mysterious God's saving will is, and how the initiative of grace is the origin of every vocation, reminds the Christians of Corinth: "You are God's field" (1 Cor 3:9). That is why wonder first arises in our hearts over the plentiful harvest which God alone can bestow; then gratitude for a love that always goes before us; and lastly, adoration for the work that he has accomplished, which requires our free consent in acting with him and for him. **Pope Francis**



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