

TRINITY SUNDAY REFLECTION
27 MAY 2018



[GOSPEL of Matthew 28:16-20](#)

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them.

He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go**, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

REFLECTION:

The parish mission had been going all week and although I was a disengaged adolescent together with my family I had faithfully attended the evening sessions energized by the rousing talks given by the enigmatic preacher. On the final night the mission priest raised his hand in the air with the flourish of a seasoned Shakespearian actor evoking his congregation to go out into the world and make disciples. I was commissioned!

Jesus parting words in today's gospel are commonly referred to as the Great Commissioning. It comes after a deeply disorienting experience for his followers having lost their loved one to a brutal execution and then to see Jesus alive after death. It must have been utterly astonishing. It happened in Galilee where it all began and Galilee, it seems, would mark this new beginning. These 'lost sheep' have lost everything and now they were on their

way from Jerusalem to Galilee wondering what they would find on the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them.

When the eleven disciples met Jesus at the appointed place, the mountain in Galilee, it seems that some fell down in worship while others were more hesitant and filled with doubt. Their response is natural and one that most of us experience. Yet like the original disciples we bring our doubts to where Jesus meets us. This is a mixture of faith and doubt; this is discipleship as it was in biblical times as it is 2018.

Jesus responds to these worshipers and doubters with the same commission: "Go and make disciples." They are told to 'Go', to go into an uncertain future, since there is no guarantee that anyone will listen. Nevertheless, the word is "go."

“Go and make disciples” is about preaching, teaching and witness. It’s about “Going” in action to make a more just society. In a recent context it may be our support for an increase in the Medicare Levy to insure that the most vulnerable amongst us will not be disadvantaged by savage cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) packages. It might be that we seek to ensure that Australia’s 2030 Paris climate pledge should be honored irrespective of recent cuts to spending on climate change amounting to \$265 million unspent from the Emission Reduction Fund (ERF).

And finally how can we not be outraged by further cuts to Foreign Aid. OECD data released in April 2018 shows Australian aid, as a proportion of Gross National Income (GNI) fell a further 16 per cent last year. At just 0.23 per cent of GNI, it puts Australia 19th in the OECD.

Support for those who are disabled; care for all of creation and basic assistance to our sisters and brothers in need wherever they are. We are commissioned in the gospel today to ‘Go’ and address these injustices. Our baptizing In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is an immersion into a discipleship that is often precarious and insecure but never without the assurance of Jesus promise to be “with us always, even to the end of time.”

Because God is the creator, redeemer, lover of the world, God’s own honour is at stake in human happiness. Wherever human beings are violated, diminished, or have their life drained away, God’s glory is dimmed and dishonoured.

Wherever human beings are quickened to fuller and richer life, God’s glory is enhanced. A community of justice and peace (thriving among human beings) and God’s glory increase in direct and not inverse proportion.

-Elizabeth Johnson, C.S.J., She Who Is, 14

INTERCESSIONS:

- We pray for Pope Francis, Church leaders and Christians everywhere: may they communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ with courage and conviction. *we pray to God. **May your Spirit fill our hearts.***
- We pray for all who are involved in the work of communications and media: may their work serve the cause of truth and justice and bring real benefits to all. *we pray to God. **May your Spirit fill our hearts.***
- We pray for all people who work to create community in the world: may they build communities that reach beyond political frontiers, ideological, ethnic, cultural, or religious boundaries, *we pray to God. **May your Spirit fill our hearts.***
- We pray for the church: for all Christians of every congregation and language, every nation and race, that we may together be a sign of the diversity and the unity of God, *we pray to God. **May your Spirit fill our hearts.***
- We pray for all people who live in nations that are torn apart by violence and conflict and may those who seek refuge beyond their borders in the search for safety and freedom find a safe home and welcome, *we pray to God. **May your Spirit fill our hearts.***



LET US PRAY

God of Communion,
Trinity of Persons,
you reveal yourself
through your presence in creation.
When we look at the heavens,
we see your vastness.
When we look at seas teeming with fish
and verdant fields painted like a canvas,
we see your creativity and your bounty.
For all of this and so much more,
we praise your name. Amen