

**June 18<sup>th</sup> 2023 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A – Matthew 9:36-10 – 8**

9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; 38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’ 10:1 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” 8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.’

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li> <li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</li> <li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).</li> </ul>
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In this gospel we celebrate leaders in our lives and communities. We see Jesus “feeling sorry” for his people not in a condescending way which shows a position of superiority because Jesus rejects all condescension but he feels sorry because people are not been given the opportunity to fulfil their true potential. He summoned his twelve disciples and sent them out to help his people who were lost. Jesus names each of his 12 disciples which is very important because they are unique individuals not just mere numbers. We are also each known to Jesus by our name. Judas Iscariot was also included because in the time and plan of Jesus there was no cover up.

Who are the people who have been good leaders to us – parents, teachers other people in authority.

Do we lead by example or do we just set down rules and regulations?

Are we ready for action when we seen an injustice being done to other people or do we just “feel sorry for them”.

**Prayer:**

**Thank you Lord** for all the people who have been shepherds to us especially when we feel lost. Thank you for people who give “without charge” especially all the wonderful volunteers in hospices and all the people who give their services to help the sick and dying.

**Forgive us Lord** for the times we talked down to people hiding from the truth of ourselves our own hidden racism, sexism and elitism.

**Lord help us** to be shepherds to all we meet especially those who may be lost or frightened.

