



13th Sunday Ord. Time Yr A

Lectio Divina

Lectio: Our text concludes Jesus' instructions to the twelve preparing them to be his witnesses. He has just told them to not be afraid even though their tasks are very challenging. The challenge will also be for their families because they must make a choice for Jesus and family ties will have to change. Also they must know there will be rewards for their choice for Jesus and that their witnessing can be in the simplest actions. The twelve are not yet sent out (i.e. to be his Apostles) but Jesus goes on to sort out the role of John the Baptist's witness.

Read: **Matthew 10: 37 - 42**

Meditatio: How do I balance family responsibilities with my choice to follow Jesus and to be his witness? Have I definitely made a choice to be a follower of Jesus i.e. to make him essential to my life? Am I carrying my cross i.e. taking up the challenges of following Jesus? Do I limit how much I do as a follower of Jesus? Am I aware that, as a Christian, I represent Jesus to others? Am I wary of being 'a prophet'? Have I experienced God's blessings for witnessing to Jesus? Do I do the little things as well as the bigger things in being Jesus' witness i.e. helping and caring in the simple ordinary ways?

Oratio: Pray for a renewal in missionary focus in our Church and in our Parish. Pray for families that they may not exclude the practice of their faith in the choices that they make. Pray for a readiness to carry our crosses i.e. make every effort to follow Jesus. Pray that our lives may witness to Jesus in a clear and confident way. Pray that good deeds will not be omitted because they are considered insignificant.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer – Give good example in all you do.

✍ Fr Joe

Matthew 10: 37 – 42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.’

‘Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.’

‘Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man’s reward.’

‘If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.’