

Today's readings continue the theme of discipleship, but in a slightly different way.

On Wednesday, we celebrated the feast of St Peter and St Paul. These two great leaders of the church should be inspirations for us as we journey on the road as followers of Jesus. We could wonder why Peter, with his ability to say the wrong thing at the wrong time, together with his impetuous behaviour, could have become the leader of the early church. In a similar way, why would the early church place such importance on Paul, a man who had victimised them? Yet, we are given these two imperfect humans as role models for discipleship exactly because they were flawed. They allowed God's love to guide their leadership. They challenged one another, but always for the good of the growing early church. As Canon Alan said to the children of St Joseph's on Wednesday,

"Lead with love."



Today's Gospel shows how Jesus grew leaders and disciples, sending them out ahead of him, in pairs. He did not send them in isolation, but enabled them to have someone to share the experience and to support them in the joys and sorrows of ministry and leadership. These people went out and spread the Good News of Jesus.



St Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, attempts to stop the arguments about who can join the early church. He reminds them that what matters is for each person who follows Jesus to become an altogether new creature, just as Jesus converted him. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God will send peace flowing like a river and that God will comfort us. It is this same peace and comfort that the disciples are asked to bring to people of peace when they go out.

Sharing in the mission of Jesus is not an easy option. Discipleship brings challenges, difficulties and rewards. We are all called to discipleship, not just priests and consecrated religious. Like the disciples, we learn from Jesus and we grow more like him the closer we get. The disciples preached the Good News and they healed the sick. When we read this, we should think of our Dockhead miracles. The disciples found that their mission brought them great joy. We, too, should find joy in our discipleship and in our leadership as long as we:

“Do small things with great love”



This message is echoed by Pope Francis when he said:

“God shows his love, not with great speeches, but with simple, tender acts of charity”

So how do we, as the community of The Most Holy Trinity, show our discipleship and our leadership?

Do we take inspiration from Peter and Paul who rose above all their inadequacies because they allowed God’s love and God’s Spirit to enter their hearts?

Do we acknowledge the peace of Christ, which reigns, in our hearts?



*“Love is patient,
love is kind;
love is not jealous or boastful;
it is not arrogant or rude.
Love does not insist on its own way,
It is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice at wrong,
but rejoices in the right.
Love bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things
endures all things” (1 Cor 13:4-7)*