

'The Courage to Listen'

Pentecost

John 20:19-23

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'



Notes on the gospel ⇒

We know this gospel has been written decades after the event, following much reflection and consideration of the implications. It can be viewed as a 'post-resurrection commissioning' and invites us as hearers to consider our call to Mission Leadership.

A closer translation of the Greek would read:

"Of whomever you forgive the sins, they are forgiven to them: whomever you hold are held fast"

In this reading of it, the emphasis of John's missional mandate is on peace, reconciliation, community care and cohesion, and the sending forth of disciples – mission leadership is multi-faceted, and requires courage!

Generally in the Gospel of John mission can be viewed as the following:

- Mission emanates from God, through a loving movement in the world in the person and mission of Jesus
- Jesus calls people to discipleship – not as individuals, but into a community of faith
- All disciples are equal – female and male
- Faith means trust – grows in stages as people are invited by Jesus words and witness to truth to respond to the invitation to participate in mission
- Hard lesson that commitment to mission means sharing in the suffering of Jesus – great and unselfish love leads to the cross but through the cross all can be drawn to J and new life

How does this influence our work as leaders for our ministries?

Turn to slide 14 of the courage resource: <http://www.kildareministries.org.au/courage.html>

- Read through the explanation
- Consider the questions (click on the 'Q' button) for discussion
- Opportunity to consider where your particular ministry is with the commitment made at the Conference

Final reflection

A man called Jesus walked in our world,
Sharing life, sharing vision,
Vision of a world made whole in God's light,
Those who heard with their hearts marveled.
He sent them to wash in living water
So that they might begin to see.
Seeing, they could not contain their gladness.
Like fire in the stubble they raced to earth's ends,
Bearing the lightsome news of God-with-us,
Calling everyone to live in the Sun.

The One called Jesus still works in our world
Through His Spirit's light in men and women.
Some are sent to carry it afar,
Some hold it on high, a beacon for justice,
Some tend it on quiet hearths for children,
Fan its gleam in questing minds,
Or shade it gently for suffering eyes.
But it is all one light, living light,
Each for other bearing, each in other nurturing,
Till all creation is made whole in light.

Jesus, Lord and Christ, summons us today
To leave our narrow darkness for His Light.
He sends us to wash in the pool of life.
Let us go that we may see,
And seeing, worship.
Raphael Consedine, A Missioning

THE COURAGE TO LISTEN

Finding the courage to be a voice in and for the Church today is a great challenge for our ministries. Complex issues arise which challenge our comfortable and known responses, seeking creative ways of drawing authentically from our mission. At the inaugural Kildare Ministries conference in 2016, ministries were encouraged to consider the emerging issues of concern from them.

From this deep reflection, 5 key areas were identified which call for a courageous response:

- 1 Giving shape to the narrative, identity and voice of Kildare Ministries
- 2 Understanding what 'Catholic Identity' is and what it means for our work
- 3 Finding a systemic approach to sustaining good mental health and wellbeing
- 4 Understanding and managing relationships in the digital age
- 5 Governance and sustainability

LISTEN