



*Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us*

Dear Father,
Be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gospel

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 the 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 know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’

What words or phrases struck you in Sunday’s Gospel reading? What might God be saying to you in and through the Gospel?

Reflection

Jesus’s final instructions to his disciples was to ‘go’, not ponder, not procrastinate or strategise, but to act with haste.

We also hear the direction to ‘go’ at the end of Mass ‘Go forth, the Mass is ended’ and after the sacrament of reconciliation “Go and sin no more”. We are restored, filled up and sent out on mission each time we encounter God.

The life of a Catholic leader is marked both by times of stillness at the feet of Jesus and action, going out to proclaim his Good News to those on furthest margins of our lives. Far from a great suggestion, the Great Commission clearly lays out the blueprint for our mission as Catholic leaders and points to the authority it contains, despite our disbelief.

Understanding their doubt, Jesus assured His disciples that he would be with them always and that their power (and ours) would flow from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our mission is expansive. Jesus calls each of us to make disciples of all nations and neither the missionary or mission are restricted by time or space. The possibilities are both daunting and exciting, but as Jesus reminds us, “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

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Dear Lord,

Help my unbelief and the tendency to take the path of least resistance in sharing your Good News in my places of ministry, friendships and family.
Like Mary, may I set off to the hill country to share Christ with those waiting to greet you.

Amen.