

Formed in Prayer



*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

Luke 9:11-17

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.' He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.' They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading?
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

When was the last time you were asked to do something seemingly impossible? Surely Jesus demands the impossible of the apostles here, "You give them something to eat." The disciples suffer a paralysis of imagination - they can't imagine how they can possibly feed such a huge crowd with the little they have. Jesus must be having a lend! Just prior to this account in John's Gospel, Jesus has given the Twelve power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases and sent them on mission throughout Galilee saying, "Take nothing for your journey..." The task today of proclaiming the good news, of feeding the crowd's hunger for genuine meaning and fulfilment can seem nigh impossible. What we have to offer can appear deceptively meagre in comparison. So what can we take from the Gospel? Imagine the little, or nothing, you have as more than enough! Imagine yourself as a disciple called to serve others with others... think 'we' not 'me'! Imagine possibilities inspired by a belief that Christ is with you, giving you authority and power to do the impossible with other disciples! And finally, be prepared to be blessed and broken for the life of the world. (*Greg Wilson, CSYMA Manager*)

Prayer

Our Father,
We pray, in Jesus' name, for all who hunger and thirst
for meaning in their lives and friendship in our communities.
Give us this day our daily bread
that we might be bread blessed and broken for others.
Amen