

Thought for the week
15th Sunday of the Year (B)

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus sent out the disciples "*two by two*". He instructed them to "*take nothing for the journey.*"

By now, we must have all got the message that we are all expected ***to go out***, but there is the comforting thought that we are not expected to go alone!

Last week Fr Michael and Deacon Brian (***two by two***) celebrated mass at St Luke's Care Home - this was a new initiative that it is hoped can be repeated so that parishioners who cannot physically get to Mass in St Michael's Church are still able to hear the message and receive the sacrament.

We live in a growing community - houses are being erected all around us and with the presence of Fr Michael as our parish priest for 18 months now: after a year of having no resident Parish priest: we are seeing numbers at Church increase once more. It is also not unusual to have 50 or more extra parishioners joining the Church at Easter and Christmas and we always have a full Church for the Confirmation and First Holy Communion services.

One of the key factors in this growth is the outreach programmes and initiatives run by Fr Michael, Deacon Brian and other parishioners: Fr Michael has forged new links between St Martin's school and St Michael's church and the Monthly Family Masses and the Sacramental services coordinated with great dedication and much hard work by Deborah West mean that young parishioners are welcomed and engaged in the Mass.

These initiatives may seem small, but are capable of transforming the lives of those they touch. The First Communion programme has resulted in 8 new altar servers, meaning those children are more involved and engaged with the mass and will hopefully continue to be so through their teenage years, which is a time when many children question their faith and leave the Church.

So maybe this Sunday we can think about how we might "***go out***" and evangelise—with the support of Fr Michael and the Parish Pastoral Committee you do not have to do it alone. There are many opportunities to bare witness and spread the Good News by our words and deeds going out with others to be a missionary force within our community.

A Parishioner