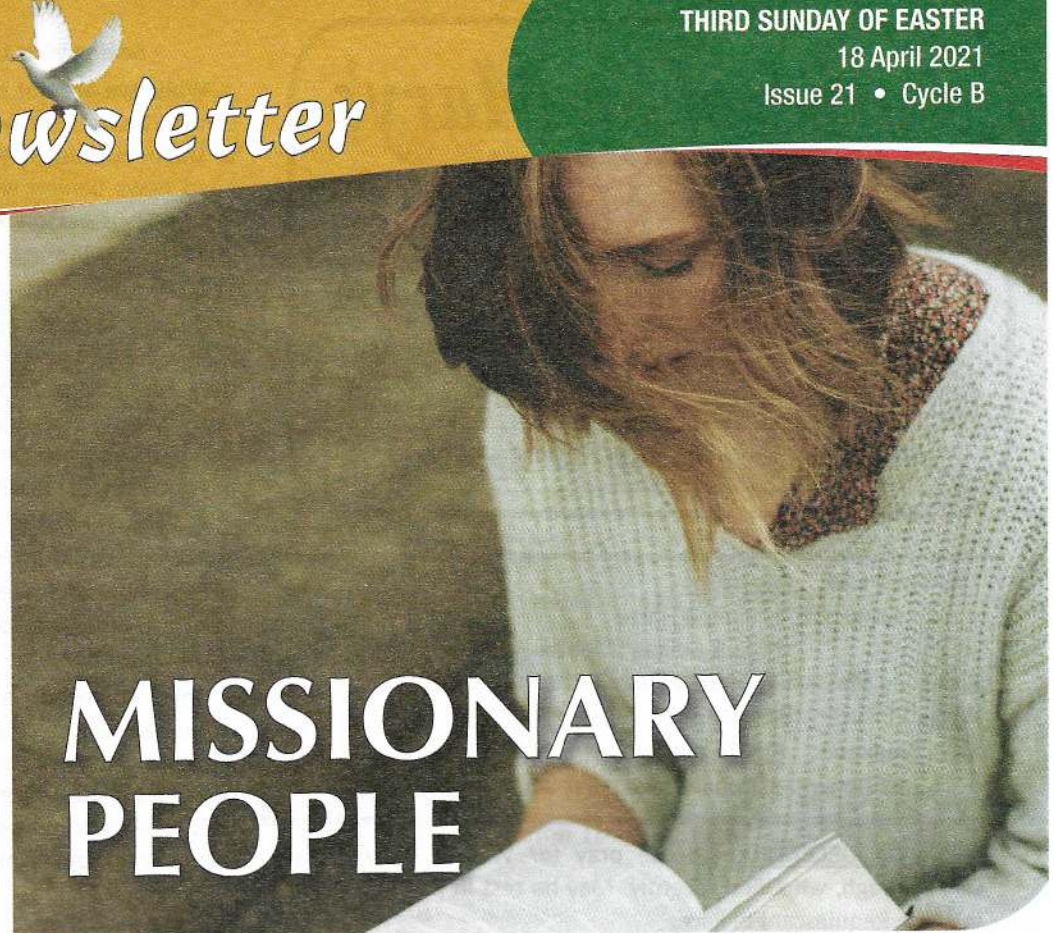


Parish Newsletter

The gospel today tells us about one of the appearances of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection. The story has a marvellous combination of reassurance and urgency. On the one hand, Jesus wants to reassure the disciples that his Spirit will continue to be with them in the future. He greets them with 'Peace be with you'. Jesus wants them, and us, to draw inspiration, strength and peace from the knowledge that we are not on our own. The Spirit of Jesus is with us.

On the other hand, he also wants the disciples to take responsibility for the mission that he has entrusted to them. They are to be witnesses to the Good News of God's love for all people, the Good News that he preached and to which he gave witness in his public ministry, the Good News for which he gave his life.

That mission has continued for each generation since then. It will also be continued through each generation to come. It is our mission today. Faced with that challenge we will do well to make our own the prayer in today's gospel acclamation: 'Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.' We need more than a nominal



MISSIONARY PEOPLE

commitment to the gospel to be credible witnesses. Ideally, we should be people whose hearts burn within us. We witness to the Good News when people see us as people grateful for God's love and eager to reach out to others in care and concern as Jesus did in his life.

Pope Francis has consistently urged parishes and other church groups to have an outward looking mentality believing that they have a great potential to enrich the local community.

At one point he outlines the contribution that a gospel inspired parish can offer to the local community.

- ✦ An endless desire to show compassion
- ✦ It builds bridges and gets involved in people's daily lives
- ✦ Is supportive, standing by people every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be

- ✦ Is familiar with patient expectation and endurance
- ✦ Bears the fruit of new life, no matter how imperfect these may be
- ✦ Is filled with joy, knowing how to rejoice and to celebrate at every small victory.

(The Joy of the Gospel, 24)

He goes on to invite us to be bold and creative in rethinking how our parishes operate and says: 'The important thing is not to walk alone but to rely on each other as brothers and sisters.' (ib. 33)

— John Byrne, OSA

Reflection

What positive changes have you seen in your parish as it adapts to a changing world?

Lesson

"Every Christian, no matter what their level of education or experience, can be a witness to the gospel."
(Pope Francis)

Prayer

"Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us."

This Week (19-25 April)

- 19 M St Alphege of Canterbury, bishop and martyr
- 20 T St Beuno
- 21 W St Anselm of Cantenbury, bishop
- 22 T St Theodore of Sykeon, bishop
- 23 F St George, martyr
- 24 S St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest and martyr
- 25 S 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER (Good Shepherd)