

the harvest" in our times? Jesus tells us today to ask God to "send labourers to his harvest." He does not specify women or men but rather people of faith who can share the good news of the Gospel. I often quote Saint Francis of Assisi who said to "preach the Gospel and, if necessary, use words". It's the example of our lives which are really important. Sometimes our actions can have a much more positive effect on people than we can ever imagine.

Saint John Paul II once said that "it is not a matter of inventing a 'new programme [for evangelisation]. The programme already exists - it is the plan found in the Gospel; it has its centre in Christ himself. But it must be translated into pastoral initiatives adapted to the circumstances of each community".

The recent *Building Hope* report says: "We can recognise the need for a changed approach that calls all the baptised to play their role in a new model of pastoral care, recognising that the future will look very different from the past, save for our continued focus on following Jesus and proclaiming his Kingdom."

In a way, we need to become missionaries in our own parishes. We need to work together in the coming months to rebuild our parishes ministries and pastoral programmes. And, most importantly of all, we need to allow time and space for the message Gospel to resonate with us, especially during these quieter summer months when we can all hopefully have a more relaxed pace of life.

When writing to Saint Ignatius of Loyola from Japan, Saint Francis Xavier said: "Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make them Christians."

We should never underestimate how important the example of our lives, our words and our actions can be for other people.

We have an opportunity to renew our own commitment to ministry in the Church and to re-commit ourselves to the work of the gospel in our parish, our families, our workplaces and in our schools and colleges.

Jesus invites each of us to take on this task with enthusiasm and dedication. The church of the coming decade and beyond will be one where each of us will need to play our parts, working collaboratively for mission and renewal in order to gather in the harvest of the Lord.

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PARISH OF LARKHILL/WHITEHALL/SANTRY



NEWSLETTER



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"The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest."

3rd July 2022

some urgency to the task in hand. We can always put things

The great Christian call to mission "Go teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19) is inscribed in Latin over one of the main buildings in All Hallows College and was often an inspiration when I visited there. This was often quoted by Saint Vincent de Paul who based his own ministry on the words of Jesus: "He sent me to bring good news to the poor" (Luke 4:18). Pope Francis says: "May you give one another an example of mutual charity and be able to set out with one accord on the path of renewal."

These words are particularly appropriate in the light of today's Gospel which included the inspiring words of Jesus from St. Luke:

"The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest."

Jesus tells his disciples to "start off now" indicating that there is



off for various reasons - some of them very good - but Jesus is reminding us that the work of sharing the good news is a task for this present moment and we should to all we can to share the joy of the Gospel with those we meet.

This seems to be a particularly opportune time in the life of our Archdiocese for a reflection of this kind, with our *Building Hope* programme of renewal which has been launched by Archbishop Dermot Farrell. We are still in Summer (despite the current weather!) and thoughts of the Autumn and the

harvest are still some time away. Over these longer days, we are called to reflect on our own ministry which is inspired by our baptismal calling. How do we respond to the "Lord of



