

Homily (notes) from Canon Philip Dyson  
**3rd July 2022 - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Readings (Year C): 1st: Isaiah 66:10-14. Psalm: 65. 2nd: Galatians 6:14-18.

**Gospel:** Luke 10:1-12, 17-20.

It's missa est: Go, the Mass is ended, we hear those or similar words at the end of each Mass. The English word Mass comes from the Latin missa, which is a late form of missio, to send.

At Mass, having been with Jesus, been forgiven, heard his holy Word, been fed and nourished by his own body and blood, we are then sent out. That we hear in the gospel today. In their briefing on being sent out we can detect three notes: **urgency, danger and insecurity.**

The note of **urgency** is sounded throughout, and especially as Jesus speaks of the wealth of the harvest, but like the fields here in Cornwall, there is a shortage of labourers. We all know that too well today.

The **danger** is lambs among wolves. That certainly is true in many parts of the world, and even here there is clear opposition to what we believe, but indifference plays quite a part too, as does total lack of any knowledge or understanding of God.

Travel light is also carries a sense of **urgency**. Not cluttered up with too much baggage. As does the case of not greeting anyone. The **urgency** of the mission allows for no distractions or delays, especially since customary greetings could be quite elaborate.

What they, and we are to travel with is **total trust in God.**

The good news they, we are to bring is God's offer of **peace**. 'Whatever house you go into, let your first word be, 'Peace to this house.' Shalom: and Salem is derived from that word, Jerusalem; city of peace: hence the 1<sup>st</sup> reading from Isaiah, for God's peace comforts like a mother and brings joy.

Jesus continues to offer God's peace to all through us, his Church, his people. That is why he sends us out at the end of Mass.

And the greeting of peace during Mass, which today, sensibly we still just acknowledge each other, like some Asian communities do where there is no touching just that smile and bow of peace.

That peace in our hearts is the gospel we proclaim, accompanied by a power that convinces people to open their hearts to receive God's forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, comfort, and joy.

Jesus even reassures that not all will welcome them/us. Don't worry; if they reject peace it will return to us, and we can shake off their dust.

What is important that we do, however we can, go out with the Lord for the kingdom is indeed very near to us. How the world needs to know it too.