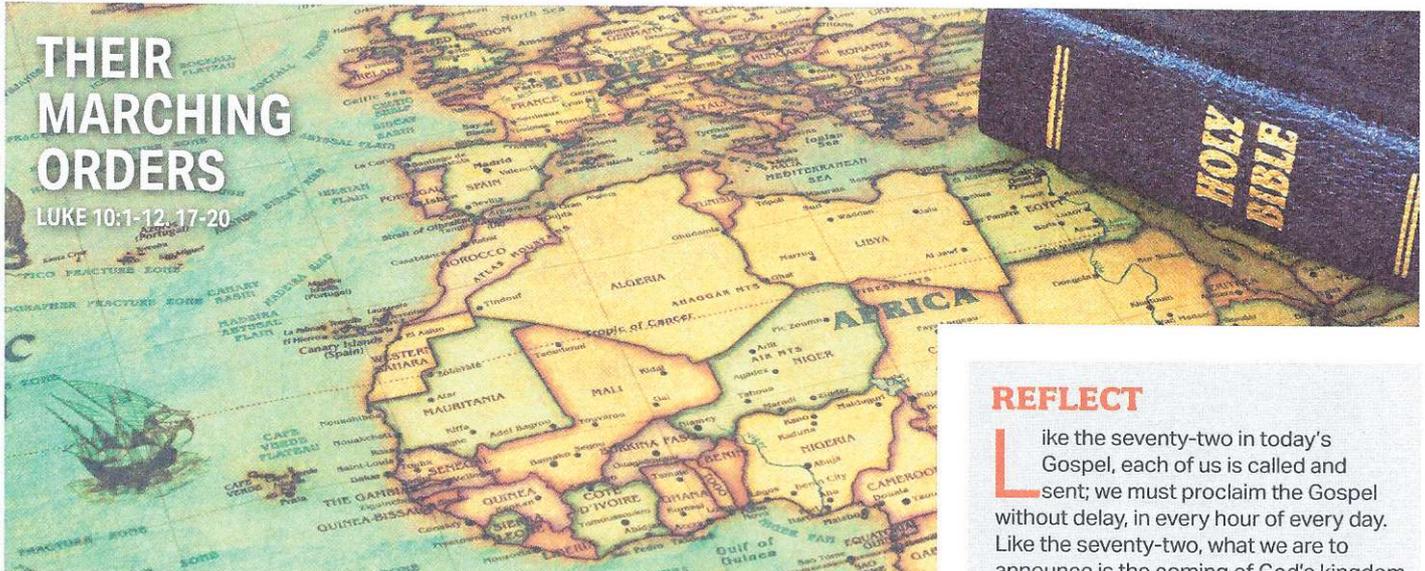


# Sunday Message

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 6 July 2025 • Psalter Week 2



## THEIR MARCHING ORDERS

LUKE 10:1-12, 17-20

I had a short, undistinguished career as a foreign missionary. In the 1980s, aged just twenty-three, I was sent to the Philippines for two years on what was called a mission immersion experience. It certainly was immersion and it most definitely was an experience.

Talk about the challenge of adjusting to a new people and a new environment. For the first few months the mosquitoes thought it was Christmas. They feasted on my rich, fresh blood. The food took some getting used to – no milk, only powdered stuff, no potatoes, only lots and lots of rice, few of the vegetables we're accustomed to, but a huge variety of wonderful tropical fruit.

I soon discovered I had no aptitude for foreign languages and struggled to get a basic grasp of the local dialect. The heat was intense. I quickly appreciated those words of Noel Coward: "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun."

I was overwhelmed by the poverty, of a kind I could scarcely imagine, thousands of families in our parish packed into shantytowns or hillside barrios with few amenities and no social welfare. I was lonely, about as far away from home as it was possible to be, in a time before smartphones, social media and satellite tv. Though I was awestruck by the people's friendliness, fortitude and faith, I knew early on I wasn't cut out to be a foreign missionary.

I wasn't the first foreign missionary in my family. A great grand-uncle, Patrick Moloney, a Vincentian priest, died in China in the 1880s; two of my religious-sister aunts worked abroad, as did many other relatives, though I was undoubtedly the least successful of the lot. Most Irish families, tracing back, will find a foreign missionary or two in their family tree, part of the country's great contribution to the Church.

But, of course, we don't have to enter religious life or go abroad to be missionaries. It's something we must do at home, too. In fact, that we do so is a requirement of our Christian faith. We are all called by virtue of our baptism to proclaim the Gospel by the kind of people we are, wherever we find ourselves. ■

### PRAY

Pray for all missionaries, particularly those working in dangerous places.

### DO

Speak this week about your love of Jesus Christ. Don't be afraid to tell people why your faith is so important to you.



### REFLECT

Like the seventy-two in today's Gospel, each of us is called and sent; we must proclaim the Gospel without delay, in every hour of every day. Like the seventy-two, what we are to announce is the coming of God's kingdom of compassion, justice, peace, love. Announce it, witness to it, live it.

Even though we live in an era of mass-media communication, where news can be transmitted around the globe in microseconds, there is still nothing to compare with the human touch, with person-to-person interaction. This is especially true when it comes to our faith. The personal witness to the Gospel that we give every day is the best form of evangelisation.

Jesus has given us an example of how we are to live. The question is, are you an agent of Good News? Do you proclaim it daily by the things you do and say? Would Jesus choose you as one of his seventy-two? ■

### LEARN

In telling the story of the seventy-two, Luke is looking forward to the mission of the Church which he describes in the Acts of the Apostles. It is a mission that always continues, even if it takes many different forms. Today, the Gospel is communicated as much through social media, tv and movies as through word of mouth. But personal example is key. All the baptised are part of the mission and witness of the Church. We each have a mandate to evangelise.

### SAY

"Lord, help me to stay strong in the face of whatever difficulties come my way. Help me to follow your example. Amen."

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Your merciful love, O God,  
we have received in the midst of your temple.  
Your praise, O God, like your name,  
reaches the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is filled with saving justice.*

**COLLECT**

O God, who in the abasement of your Son  
have raised up a fallen world,  
fill your faithful with holy joy,  
for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin  
you bestow eternal gladness.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 66:10-14c

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

'Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;  
rejoice with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over her;  
that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast;  
that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious abundance.'  
For thus says the LORD:  
'Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,  
and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;  
and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip,  
and bounced upon her knees.  
As one whom his mother comforts,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.  
You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;  
your bones shall flourish like the grass;  
and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants.'

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 66(65):1-3a. 4-5. 6-7a. 16, 20. R.1

**R:** *Cry out with joy to God all the earth.*

1. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!' **R.**
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow down,  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!  
Come and see the works of God:  
his wondrous deeds among the children of Adam. **R.**
3. He turned the sea into dry land;  
they passed through the river on foot.  
Let our joy, then, be in him;  
he rules for ever by his might. **R.**
4. Come and hear, all who fear God;  
I will tell what he did for my soul.  
Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,  
nor withhold from me his merciful love. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Galatians 6:14-18

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians.

Brothers and sisters: Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL** Colossians 3:15a, 16a

**R:** *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;  
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

**R:** *Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL** Luke 10:1-12. 17-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*(for shorter form read between > <)*

> At that time: The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house!" And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." < But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near." I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.'

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!' And he said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May this oblation dedicated to your name  
purify us, O Lord,  
and day by day bring our conduct  
closer to the life of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.*

Or

*Come to me, all who labour and are burdened,  
and I will refresh you, says the Lord.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
that, having been replenished by such great gifts,  
we may gain the prize of salvation  
and never cease to praise you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**