

THE UPPER ALDE BENEFICE

13th Sunday of the Year (Trinity 3)



One of the most exciting events in the Olympic Games, or in any athletics meeting for that matter, has to be the relay race. Fans cheer their team as each of them runs their leg of the race. The baton is passed on and the exhausted runner leaves the track to watch and cheer on their teammates. It's a marvellous combination of both individual and team effort.

There is something of a relay race in today's Gospel reading. Our Lord is handing the baton on.

'Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.' (St Matthew 10:40)

Jesus is sending out his disciples to continue his own mission of both proclaiming and putting into practice the good news of the Kingdom of God. Therefore to apply this message to our own selves and our particular situation, it means that we are the runners. The baton has been passed to us and it is so good that we should want everyone to have a chance of holding it. It is not just about the talking. There is action here. It is also about the doing. In the same way that the original disciples were told to heal the sick, cast out evil spirits, bear witness to him and announce that the kingdom was near, so we too are obligated to put his love into action.

It will come as a great relief to many and also with a sense of thanksgiving that from this Sunday our churches will be open for worship. It goes without saying that there will be strict guidelines which will be followed. I have mentioned them in the accompanying email. Nevertheless, this will be the starting point for the teaching we have heard in today's reading. The starting pistol has been fired. I am inviting all of you, insofar that you feel comfortable and safe, to join with us in worship. It is how we will receive the baton of the love our Lord and Saviour and become equipped to pass it on to others.

Prayer for the week

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.