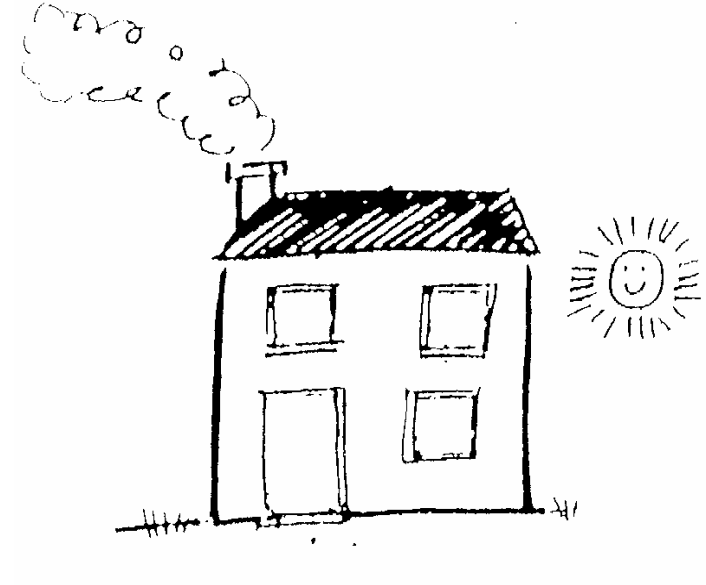


*A house group may enrich your journey of faith*



*Open wide the doors to Christ*

### **Some general points:**

- 1) Thank you to our hosts for your hospitality. Should it be that you are unable on a given occasion to host the group please see if one of the other members might be host for that occasion.
- 2) Thank you to our leaders for your time, skill and expertise. Please feel free to pass the leadership from person to person (if others are willing).
- 3) If for some reason you are unable to go to the house group you normally attend in any week, why not contact one of the other groups instead? We know you will be welcomed.
- 4) Please encourage people who cannot come to house groups to look up the materials on the parish website. They might find them useful and helpful.

We hope you will feel at home in your group.

The format for the summer will be:

**Welcome** (about 10 - 15 mins): We'll share experiences with our neighbours on a question related to the theme.

**Worship** (around 10 mins): During the summer we are praying for some of the other groups that work in the parish, and have asked them to contribute to the materials. The Christian Meditation materials are included as usual at the end of the booklet.

**Word** (around 20 mins): We will read the Gospel for each Sunday, thinking about the theme and then reflect together on the words and phrases that strike individuals.

**What next?** This time there will be a common theme – how can we support the work of the specific group that we are praying for?

The materials in the pamphlet have been prepared by members of the core group (Anne Buchanan, Jill Clough, Pat Gordon, Chris Hough, Clare McEntegart). If you would like to help provide resources or comment on them, please let us know by emailing the Presbytery, marking it for us ([kendalrc1@aol.com](mailto:kendalrc1@aol.com)).

**The next joint House Group celebrations are on September 5<sup>th</sup> and November 28<sup>th</sup>, at Brettargh**

### **Parish Prayer:**

**God, our Father, you call us to be your Church here in this place. Please fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be empowered to serve you in our brothers and sisters in this community and to reach out to others in mission. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.**

### **HOUSE GROUP VISION**

- Grow closer to God through prayer
- Develop community of prayer in daily life
- Take the parish forwards
- To move outwards from comfort to Evangelisation
- To learn and grow in faith
- Draw more people into the community
- Help people to develop their potential and to become more deeply involved
- Rediscover the dynamism of the early church and regenerate the same spirit for today
- Make us bolder in proclaiming our faith
- Live in the kingdom – moving from theory to incarnation – making the WORD flesh here today in a relevant way.

### **How do we do this?**

1. The groups are centred in the Word of God.
2. We use a common structure.
3. God is committed to diversity and groups may have their own pace and their own needs and interests.
4. The house groups are part of the community of prayer in the parish.

## Worship as meditation - guidance

### **Opening Prayer**

Heavenly Father, open our hearts to the silent presence of the spirit of your Son. Lead us into that mysterious silence where your love is revealed to all who call. Maranatha... Come, Lord Jesus.

*To the host or leader: start playing the sound as background. The supplied CD lasts for over 30 minutes so you will have plenty of time to explain – either with or without the sound to accompany your explanation.*

### **How to Meditate**

Sit down. Sit still and upright. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Silently, interiorly begin to say a single word. We recommend the prayer-phrase, "Maranatha". (This is Aramaic, and means 'Come, Lord'. It was used in the early Christian Church.) Recite it as four syllables of equal length. Listen to it as you say it, gently but continuously. Do not think or imagine anything – spiritual or otherwise. If thoughts and images come, these are distractions at the time of meditation, so keep returning to simply saying the word.

### **Prayer at end of Worship**

May this group be a true spiritual home for the seeker, a friend for the lonely, a guide for the confused.

May those who pray here be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to serve all who come and to receive them as Christ himself. In the silence of this room may all the suffering, violence and confusion of the world encounter the power that will console, renew and uplift the human spirit.

May this silence be a power to open the hearts of men and women to the vision of God, and so to each other, in love and peace, justice and human dignity. May the beauty of the Divine Life fill this group and the hearts of all who pray here with joyful hope.

May all who come here weighted down by the problems of humanity, leave, giving thanks for the wonder of human life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

## Week 1

leading to 11th Sunday in Ordinary

*Theme – the work of Justice and Peace/Pax Christi*

### Welcome:

On Radio Four there is a programme called 'Taking a Stand.' If you were invited to take part, what would your 'stand' be?

### Worship

*Either: meditation for 10 minutes as set out at the end of the pamphlet, followed by reading the Gospel for Sunday, as printed below,*

*Or:*

*Read this together in any way that seems helpful for your group:*

### **Wisdom 6: 1-9**

God of our ancestors, Lord of Mercy,  
who by your word have made all things,  
and in your wisdom have fitted man  
to rule the creatures that have come from you,  
to govern the world in holiness and justice  
and in honesty of soul to wield authority,  
grant me Wisdom, consort of your throne,  
and do not reject me from the number of your children.

For I am your servant, son of your serving maid,  
a feeble man, with little time to live,  
with small understanding of justice and the laws.  
Indeed, were anyone perfect among the sons of men,  
if he lacked the Wisdom that comes from you, he would still count for nothing.

*From Psalm 32(33)*

Shout for joy to Yahweh, all virtuous men,  
praise comes well from upright hearts;  
the word of Yahweh is integrity itself,  
all he does is done faithfully;  
he loves virtue and justice,  
Yahweh's love fills the earth.

Let the whole world fear Yahweh,  
let all who live on earth revere him!  
He spoke, and it was created;  
he commanded, and there it stood.

Yahweh looks down from heaven,  
he sees the whole human race;  
from where he sits he watches  
all who live on the earth,  
he who moulds every heart  
and takes note of all men do.

A large army will not keep a king safe,  
nor does the hero escape by his great strength;  
it is delusion to rely on the horse for safety,  
for all its power, it cannot save.

But see how the eye of Yahweh is on those who fear him,  
on those who rely on his love,  
to rescue their souls from death  
and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul awaits Yahweh,  
he is our help and shield;  
our hearts rejoice in him,  
we trust in his holy name.  
Yahweh, let your love rest on us  
as our hope has rested in you.

### **Word**

*We are all sinners and come to Christ for forgiveness. It is our faith in Christ's saving power rather than in any observance of the law which brings us pardon for our sins. Forgiveness is given to those who love and if we love Christ then we live a life of peace with God. It is Christ who lives in us once we die to sin.*

### **Luke 7: 36 – 8:3**

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to a meal. When he arrived at the Pharisee's house and took his place at table, a woman came in, who had a bad name in the town. She had heard he was dining with the

### **Luke 10 10: 38 - 42**

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed, only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.

### **Shared reflection**

How do you respond to this reading? What words stand out for you? What does it make you feel and imagine?

### **Shared prayers**

Dear Lord, we thank you for our children and our school. Thank you for those you have called to teach our children. Bless all the adults and children in our school with your wisdom that brings peace. Grant them knowledge of your will and courage to follow it. We pray that the knowledge and love of you will be exalted above all other knowledge. Holy Spirit, we pray that you will inspire our school community. Most of all, Lord, we pray that our children learn how to seek you out, come to know and love you, and receive what they need through you. Amen

### **What next**

How could we do more to support the work of the schools in our parish, including the people who are actually involved in working at or on behalf of our primary school?

### **Finish with the Parish Prayer**

He's got everybody here in His hands,  
He's got everybody there in His hands,  
He's got everybody everywhere in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.

*Jesus taught through parables over and over again. This reading is one example of the many and is included to remind us of his relationship with his disciples.*

From Luke 11: 1 - 8

One day, Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray; just as John taught his disciples.'

He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

'Father,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come.  
Give us each day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,  
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.  
And lead us not into temptation.'

Then he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him."

'Then the one inside answers, "Don't bother me. The door is already locked and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything." I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

**Word**

*Christ was welcomed by Martha and Mary in different ways. Martha was anxious to prepare a meal for him while Mary kept him company listening to all he had to say. We need to listen to Christ with love. It is love that opens our hearts to his message when he comes to share his life with ours.*

Pharisee and had brought with her an alabaster jar of ointment. She waited behind him at his feet, weeping. And her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them away with her hair; then she covered his feet with kisses and anointed them with the ointment.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet he would know who this woman is that is touching him and what a bad name she has.' Then Jesus took him up and said, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Speak, Master,' was the reply. There was once a creditor who had two men in his debt; one owed him five hundred denarii, the other fifty. They were unable to pay, so he pardoned them both. Which of them will love him more?' 'The one who was pardoned more, I suppose,' answered Simon. Jesus said, 'You are right.'

Then he turned to the woman. 'Simon,' he said, 'you see this woman? I came into your house, and you poured no water over my feet, but she has poured out her tears over my feet and wiped them away with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but she has been covering my feet with kisses ever since I came in. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed by feet with ointment. For this reason, I tell you that her sins, her many sins, must have been forgiven her, or she would not have shown such love. It is the man who is forgiven little who shows little love.' Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.' Those who were with him at table began to say to themselves, 'Who is this man, that he even forgives sins?' But he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.'

Now after this he made his way through towns and villages, preaching and proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of God. With him went the Twelve, as well as certain women who had been cured of evil spirits and ailments: Mary, surnamed Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and several others who provided for them out of their own resources.

Shared reflection

How do you respond to this reading? What words stand out for you? What does it make you feel and imagine?

Shared prayers

*The Justice and Peace group works to support prisoners of conscience; to be silent witnesses to the atrocities of the world such as war and to*

*promote memorials such as Peace Sunday and Remembrance Sunday; to call for an end to expenditure on nuclear weapons; to remind us of the importance of the conservation of energy and resources in our local community; to promote the observance of Peace Sunday and Remembrance Day, and of activities such as Fair Trade Fortnight; to bring into our community visiting speakers such as Pat Gaffney (Pax Christi).*

*The Justice and Peace Group also support the work of Pax Christi and embraces its vision:*

*'Pax Christi is an international Christian peacemaking movement, based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of the world where people can live in peace and without fear of violence, in all its forms. We believe in the power of prayer, reconciliation, forgiveness, justice and nonviolence and of the right to live in a culture which promotes these values and treats the whole of God's creation in a respectful and just manner'*

### **The World Peace Prayer**

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.  
Lead me from despair, to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe

### **Blessed are the peacemakers**

Blessed are you peacemakers, who say no to war as a means to peace.

Blessed are you peacemakers, who are committed to disarm weapons of mass destruction.

Blessed are you peacemakers, who wage peace at heroic personal cost.

Blessed are you peacemakers, who challenge and confront judges, courts & prisons.

Blessed are the peacemakers, who help those who are hurting

Blessed are the peacemakers, who befriend perfect strangers.

Blessed are the peacemakers, who open doors for acting justly, loving tenderly and walking humbly with God and all people of good will.

Blessed are the peacemakers, who welcome, encourage and inspire.

Blessed are the peacemakers, who offer hope and healing.

Blessed are the peacemakers, who care and comfort.

### **Week 6**

**leading to 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary**

### **Theme – Dean Gibson Primary School**

*This is on the School's website: 'Dean Gibson Catholic Primary School is situated on the edge of Kendal. We serve a wide area including surrounding villages. As a Catholic School, the philosophy and ethos of Dean Gibson is firmly rooted in Catholic tradition, with an emphasis on the teachings of Jesus Christ'.*

### **Welcome**

Everyone has been to school so everyone knows what school teachers are like (maybe!). Who's the best teacher you have ever met outside of school? What made him or her such a good teacher?

### **Worship**

*Either: meditation for 10 minutes as set out at the end of the pamphlet, Or:*

*Sing or say together this hymn, which the children of our parish know and love*

He's got the whole world in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,  
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,  
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the sun and the rain in His hands,  
He's got the moon and the stars in His hands,  
He's got the wind and the clouds in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the rivers and the mountains in His hands,  
He's got the oceans and the seas in His hands,  
He's got you and he's got me in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.

You are before us, God, you are behind.  
You are around us, God, you are within.

O God of life, you know the secret thoughts of every heart.  
We bring the faith that is in us, and the doubt.  
We bring the joy that is in us, and the sorrow.

O God of life, you are in the light and in the darkness.  
We bring the knowledge that is in us, and the ignorance.  
We bring the hope that is in us, and the despair.

O God of life, O generous Spirit,  
Renew us with your life, tonight, tomorrow and always.  
Amen.

#### *A Catechist's Prayer*

Loving Father, Giver of all that is,  
Help me to remember that every gift I have comes from you.  
Expand my vision so that I can appreciate your goodness  
in the world around me.

Jesus, our redeemed,  
You are the path to the treasures of my heart and soul.  
Strengthen my commitment to be a catechist  
and deepen my capacity to share your truth with those in my care.

Holy Spirit, Love Divine, All life and energy flows from you.  
Illuminate my thoughts and intensify my desire  
to grow ever deeper in my faith.

I lift up my prayer to you, God - Father, Son and Spirit - in humility and  
hope. Amen

Saint John Bosco - *pray for us*  
Mary, help of Christians - *pray for us*

#### **What next**

How could we do more to support the work of the Catechists, the young  
people and their families?

Blessed are the peacemakers, who help find answers.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, who provide stability not insanity.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, who help restore faith and love.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, who delight in creation, art & creativity.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, who see the good in others.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, who never give up.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, who give and give and give.

#### **What Next:**

How could we do more to support the work of Justice and Peace and  
Pax Christi, including the people from our parish who are actively  
involved in running the group?

#### **Week 2**

**leading to 12th Sunday in Ordinary**

***Theme – the Cenacolo Community and Friends of Cenacolo***  
*From Darkness into Light*

#### **Welcome:**

Have you ever experienced a time when everything in your life seemed  
dark and hopeless? No light at the end of the tunnel?  
How did you overcome this situation? Who or what helped?

#### **Worship:**

*Either: meditation for 10 minutes as set out at the end of the pamphlet,*  
*Or:*

#### **Say or sing together:**

Father, I place into your hands  
The things I cannot do.  
Father, I place into your hands  
The things that I've been through.  
Father, I place into your hands  
The way that I should go,  
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands  
My friends and family.  
Father, I place into your hands

The things that trouble me.  
Father, I place into your hands  
The person I would be,  
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face  
We love to hear your voice.  
Father, we love to sing your praise  
And in your name rejoice.  
Father, we love to walk with you  
And in your presence rest,  
For we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you  
And do the things you do.  
Father, I want to speak the words  
That you are speaking too.  
Father, I want to love the ones  
That you will draw to you,  
For I know that I am one with you.

*Cenacolo is the Italian word for Cenacle, the upper room in which Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples before He gave himself in sacrifice on the Cross. The Cenacle was also the place where the apostles gathered with Our Lady after Our Lord's Passion and Death and Resurrection in order to support one another and also to pray that the Holy Spirit would come and make them into new people.*

*So the Cenacolo movement today is a refuge for those recovering from addiction through a life centred on work, prayer and spiritual healing. The communities rely purely on providence and prayer for their everyday needs. The support group is a gathering of people to pray, asking that the Holy Spirit may come to enlighten and heal and also to give thanks for the many benefits of the Cenacolo community, and to offer support to the families of those seeking help, as well as the 'Lads' themselves at Dodding Green*

*Pray together:*

### **Prayer to St. Michael**

Holy Michael, Archangel, defend us in this day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God

### **Word**

*God is as near to us as our own hearts. If we wish to become like Christ then we will serve all men without distinction of race, colour or creed. We will become reconcilers and so love God with all our hearts. In this way we become the Good Samaritans of a wounded world.*

### **Luke 10 10: 25-37**

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus. 'Do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way, a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him,' he replied. Jesus said to him, "Go, and do the same yourself.'

### **Shared reflection**

How do you respond to this reading? What words stand out for you? What does it make you feel and imagine?

### **Shared prayers**

*The following prayers are ones used by catechists in our parish. Keep them in your thoughts as you pray together -*

O God of life, of all life and of each life, we lay our lives before you. We give our lives to you, from whom nothing in us is hidden.

Lord I come to Your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into Your radiance,  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,  
Shine on me. Shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness.  
So our faces display Your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me. Shine on me.

*Say together (from Psalm 34)*

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul will make its boast in the Lord;  
the humble will hear it and rejoice.  
O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.  
I sought the Lord, and He answered me,  
and delivered me from my fears.  
They looked to Him and were radiant  
and their faces will never be ashamed.  
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him  
and rescues them.  
O taste and see that the Lord is good!  
How blessed is the one who takes refuge in him!  
O fear the Lord, you His saints;  
for to those who fear Him there is no want.  
The young lions do lack and suffer hunger,  
but they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing.  
Come, you children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.  
Depart from evil and do good.  
Seek peace and pursue it.  
The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous  
and his ears are open to their cry.  
Glory be ...

rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, Prince of the heavenly host,  
by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits who  
wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Psalm 114:

*I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*

I love the Lord for he has heard  
the cry of my appeal;  
for he turned his ear to me  
in the day when I called him. *R.*

They surrounded me, the snares of death,  
with the anguish of the tomb;  
they caught me, sorrow and distress.  
I called on the Lord's name.  
O Lord my God, deliver me! *R.*  
How gracious is the Lord, and just;  
our God has compassion.  
The Lord protects the simple hearts;  
I was helpless so he saved me. *R.*

He has kept my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling.  
I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living. *R*

**Word:**

*All followers of Christ must expect to suffer in this world. In this way we unite ourselves with his sufferings and live out our baptism which makes us one with Christ in all things. As followers we apparently lose our lives for Christ's sake, but in fact we are really saving them for eternity. That is the paradox of being a Christian.*

**Luke 9: 18 - 24**

One day when Jesus was praying alone in the presence of his disciples he put this question to them. 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' And they answered, 'John the Baptist, others Elijah; and others say one of the ancient prophets come back to life.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' It was Peter who spoke up. 'The Christ of God,' he

said. But he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone anything about this.

‘The Son of Man,’ he said, ‘is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and chief priests, and to be put to death, and to be raised up on the third day.’

Then to all he said, ‘If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, that man will save it.’

#### Shared reflection

How do you respond to this reading? What words stand out for you?  
What does it make you feel and imagine?

#### Shared prayers

*Pray together.*

O God, our loving Father, you understand and forgive the frailty of your children. We ask you now to extend your strong arm in blessing over them. Help them to believe that faith overcomes the weakness of human nature, and that your grace will sustain them in the struggle to be free of the power and influence of their addiction. Help them to seek and find in you a rock and a refuge in times of difficulty and temptation, and make them aware of your ever-loving presence in their lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

*(J.Selby)*

*After the suffering comes the joy, a hope reborn, helping people rebuild their broken lives after addiction.*

#### Sing or say together:

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness  
Open my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore you  
Hope of a life spent with you.

*So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that you're my God,  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.*

*The team offers a positive and non judgemental approach and a welcoming environment in which the parents, children and young people are valued and encouraged in their spiritual growth. They work with a minimum of two people for home visits and between four and six for group sessions.*

*The preparation includes formal input by the team and experiential learning by the parents, children and young people. Catechists do not teach in their own names, they teach in the name of Christ. Their aim is, by learning to echo him, to help others to listen not just to the message of Christ but to his voice within them.*

#### Welcome

What are your memories of your own First Communion and Confirmation? How does this compare with what you know of how things are done now?

#### Worship

Either: *meditation for 10 minutes as set out at the end of the pamphlet,*  
Or:

*This hymn is a favourite to use with the children preparing for First Communion. In their case it is sung accompanied by actions – feel free, but not obliged, to do likewise!*

Lord the Light of Your Love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness shining,  
Jesus light of the world shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,  
Shine on me. Shine on me.

*Shine Jesus shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth Your word  
Lord and let there be light.*



the little children alone, and do not stop them coming to me; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'

*What do these words mean to you when you think about the young people in our parish community?*

Sing or say:

*(Refrain) Follow me, follow me,  
leave your home and family ,leave your fishing nets and boats upon  
the shore.*

*Leave the seed that you have sown,  
leave the crops that you've grown,  
leave the people you have known and  
follow me.*

The foxes have their holes  
and the swallows have their nests,  
but the Son of man has no place to lay down.  
I do not offer comfort, I do not offer wealth,  
but in me will all happiness be found.

*(Refrain)*

If you would follow me,  
you must leave old ways behind.  
You must take my cross and follow on my path.  
You may be far from loved ones,  
you may be far from home  
but my Father will welcome you at last.

*(Refrain)*

Although I go away  
you will never be alone,  
for the Spirit will be there to comfort you.  
Though all of you may scatter,  
each follow his own path,  
still the Spirit of love will lead you home.

## **Luke 10: 1- 12; 17 - 20**

The Lord anointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among the wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first word be, "Peace to this house!" And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, "We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near." I tell you, on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town.'

The seventy-two came back rejoicing. 'Lord,' they said, 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name.' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.'

### Shared reflection

How do you respond to this reading? What words stand out for you? What does it make you feel and imagine?

### Shared prayers

*The mission of the OAG is to help overseas projects directly. Usually the projects are small-scale, known personally, and are publicised in our community by direct contacts. Recently, we were joined at Mass by Sister Julie, of the Sister Julie Fund, who is the sister of one of our parishioners. She works in Nigeria with desperately sick people who are suffering from Aids. The OAG supports her work because we can talk directly to Sr Julie.*

to clothe the man you see to be naked  
and not turn from your own kin?  
Then will your light shine like the dawn  
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you  
and the glory of Yahweh behind you.  
Cry, and Yahweh will answer;  
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,  
the clenched fist, the wicked word,  
if you give your bread to the hungry,  
and relief to the oppressed,

your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your shadows become like noon.  
Yahweh will always guide you,  
giving you relief in desert places.

He will give strength to your bones  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never run dry.

You will rebuild the ancient ruins,  
build up the old foundation.  
You will be called 'Breach-Mender',  
'Restorer of ruined houses.'

*Please take some time to pray together about what you understand from these prophetic words.*

**Word**

*The Gospel message is one of peace. Wherever we go we should bring the peace of Christ with us but we can only do this when we have learned to suffer like him. Then we will lead an entirely new life and peace will flow like a river from us to everyone around.*

*Follow me, follow me,  
leave your home and family ,leave your fishing nets and boats upon  
the shore.*

*Leave the seed that you have sown,  
leave the crops that you've grown,  
leave the people you have known and  
follow me.*

**Word:**

*When Christ calls us to follow him we must make no excuses but follow him immediately. His service is perfect freedom and it is in this service of each other through the love of Christ that we discover the true meaning of liberty. God's spirit will keep us close to Christ and we have nothing to fear since love casts out fear.*

**Luke 9: 51-62**

As the time grew near for him to be taken up to Jerusalem, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparation for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' but he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

Another to whom he said, 'Follow me,' replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say goodbye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.'

**Shared reflection**

How do you respond to this reading? What words stand out for you? What does it make you feel and imagine?

### Shared prayers

We ask for Your blessing on the Ignite! group, its members and leaders and all the young people of our parish community. May it flourish and continue to support our young people.

We pray that our young people will find acceptance, respect and support both within the church and in society as a whole.

*Pray together about any of the other issues that arose during the Welcome and responses to the Word.*

*Finish with the Parish Prayer*

### **What Next:**

How could we do more to support the work of the Ignite! group, including the people from our parish who are actively involved in running the group?

### **Week 4**

**leading to 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary**

### ***Theme – Overseas Aid Group***

### **Welcome**

*The Overseas Aid Group members invite us to donate time, effort and money towards the projects they lead us to support.*

Think back over the past week: what's the best gift you have received?

### **Worship**

*Either: meditation for 10 minutes as set out at the end of the pamphlet,*

*Or:*

*Read this together in whatever way seems fitting for your group. These words are very important to the members of the OAG and we are invited to meditate on their meaning in relation to our community, and to offer this meditation to God.*

### **Isaiah 58:1 – 12**

Shout for all you are worth,  
raise your voice like a trumpet.  
Proclaim their faults to my people,  
their sins to the House of Jacob.

They seek me day after day,  
they long to know my ways,  
like a nation that wants to act with integrity  
and not ignore the law of God.

They ask me for laws that are just,  
they long for God to draw near:  
'Why should we fast if you never see it,  
why do penance if you never notice?'

Look, you do business on your fastdays,  
you oppress all your workmen.  
Look, you quarrel and squabble when you fast  
and strike the poor man with your fist.

Fasting like yours today  
will never make your voice heard on high.  
Is that the sort of fast that pleases me,  
a truly penitential day for men?

Hanging your head like a reed,  
lying down on sackcloth and ashes?  
Is that what you call fasting,  
a day acceptable to Yahweh?

Is not this the sort of fast that pleases me  
- it is the Lord Yahweh who speaks –  
to break unjust fetters  
and undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,  
and break free every yoke,  
to share your bread with the hungry,  
and shelter the homeless poor,