



## **‘Heart speaks to Heart’ - being a missionary and synodal diocese.**

### *A Six-Week Course for the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia*

#### **WEEK 3: GROWING EVANGELISING DISCIPLES (PILLAR 2)**

In his last address to his followers, St David gave some beautiful words which we do well to remember and practice.<sup>3</sup> One of the phrases he used, was:

“*Byddwch lawen – Be joyful.*”

We are joyful because we have encountered Jesus. This entails a call to mission, because we want to share Jesus with others who do not know Him.

Mission describes the very heart of God. The Father sends the Son in order to bring His love into our world and into every human heart. The Son willingly accepts the Father's Mission. Out of love for the Father, He comes into our world. Not only is Jesus the human face of God, but He is humbler yet, even to accepting death on a Cross (Philippians 2). The Spirit accompanies the Son in His Mission and continues to animate Jesus' followers so that they may participate in the Son's mission and come to the Father's house. We have come to know God because He has gone outside of Himself, to draw us to Himself.

Our zeal for Mission is a participation in this going forth from, and return, to God. We have a heart for others, to bring them to Jesus, that He might bring them to the Father and that they might be 'at home' with Him. We do not seek to bring others to ourselves.

A local Church which is not making disciples is failing in a fundamental aspect of its life. The question we must ask ourselves, therefore, is:

If we have encountered Jesus and experienced something of the depth of His love in our lives, then we know that we have no option other than to help others have this experience, too. Jesus is ‘an event’ which has happened in our lives. We want others to encounter Him, because we know that our ongoing encounter with Him is the only thing which brings real meaning and purpose to our life. As Pope Francis expressed so powerfully to each of us in ‘The Joy of the Gospel’:



*“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.” This first proclamation is called “first” not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things. It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear time after time in different ways.”<sup>4</sup>*

Trying to help others come into this encounter with Jesus is not just one more task among all the other things we have to do. It is the heart of what we do and should be the criterion against which we judge what we do.

**For reflection (Week 3):**

- 1. The Faith teaches that ‘God is Love’ (1 John 4: 8) - if Mission ‘describes the very heart of God’, how do the two (Love and Mission) go together?**
- 2. Would you describe yourself as an ‘evangelising disciple’, someone eager to share their relationship with Jesus Christ with others? Do you have a ‘zeal for Mission’ – do we as a parish? If not, why not – and is that a ‘problem’?**
- 3. What can we do to make this part of the vision a reality in this place? What might need to change – and how could this happen?**