

DERRY DIOCESAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Baptised and Sent The Church of Christ on Mission in the World

Julieann Moran – 28th & 29th August 2019

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Heavenly Father,
when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ
rose from the dead,
He commissioned His followers
to 'go and make disciples of all nations'
and you remind us that through our Baptism
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.
Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to be courageous and zealous
in bearing witness to the Gospel,
so that the mission entrusted to the Church,
which is still very far from completion,
may find new and efficacious expressions
that bring life and light to the world.
Help us make it possible for all peoples
to experience the saving love
and mercy of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.

Amen



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Discussion: What do we mean by Mission?

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What Does Mission Mean?

Dictionary Definition: an important assignment given to a person or group of people

Faith Context: Mission is the divine activity of sending intermediaries to speak or do God's will

The biblical concept of mission is expressed by the verb "to send," with God as the expressed subject (the sender)

The Hebrew verb is *shalach*, the Greek is *apostello* and the Latin translates as *mittere/missio*

It emphasises the authority of God who sends; the commissioning of the one being sent; the obedience of the one sent; a task to be accomplished; the power to accomplish the task; and a purpose within the moral framework of God's covenantal promise

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Who has God called and sent before?

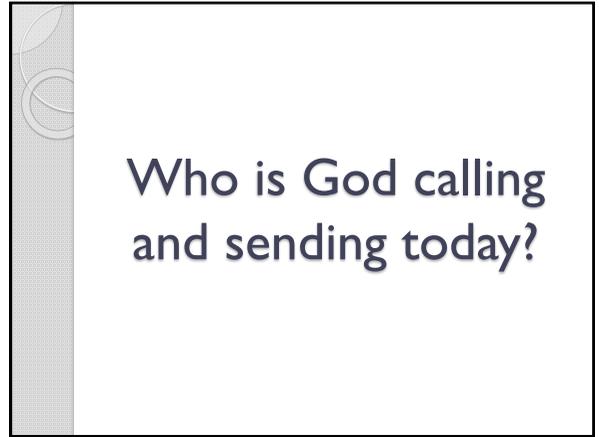
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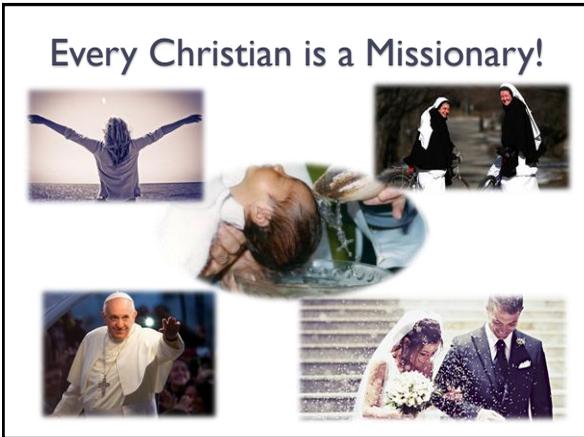
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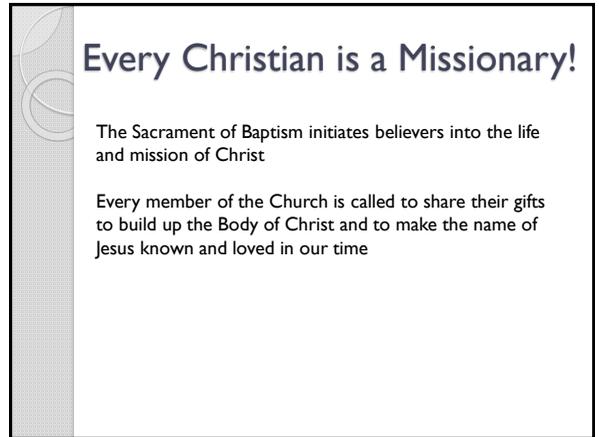
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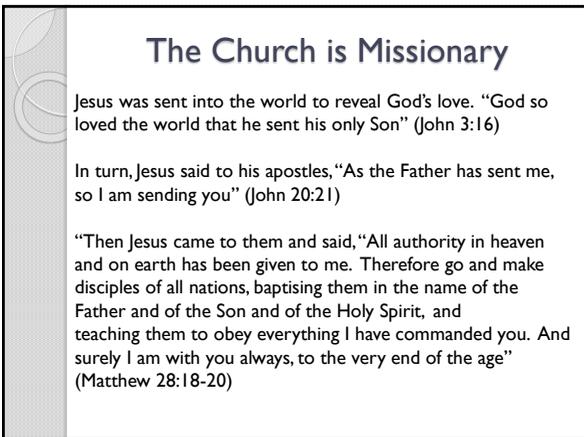
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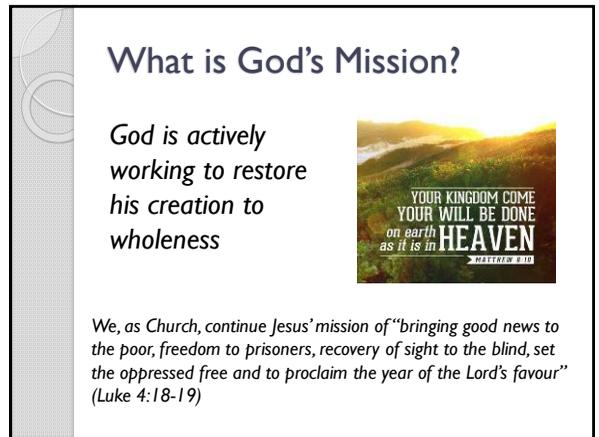
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God's Mission has a Church

The mission of Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all people has been handed on to the Church and we are guided by the Holy Spirit.

"It is not the church that has a mission of salvation to fulfil in the world; it is the mission of the Son and the Spirit through the Father that includes the church."

Jürgen Moltmann

There is a Church precisely because there is a Mission, not vice versa!

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What qualifications do you need?

Isaac was a day dreamer, Jacob was a cheater, Peter had a temper and denied Christ, David had an affair and tried to cover it up with murder, Noah got drunk, Elisha was suicidal, Jonah ran away from God, Paul was a murderer.

Timothy had too many ulcers, Gideon was insecure, Miriam was a gossip, Martha was a worrier, Thomas was a doubter, Sara was impatient, Elijah was moody, Rahab was a prostitute, Samson – he liked prostitutes too much.

Isaiah preached naked for three years, John the Baptist ate bugs and had second thoughts about the very Messiah he baptised.

Jeremiah was way too emotional, Moses stuttered, Zacchaeus was too short, Abraham was too old and Lazarus was dead!

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God doesn't call the qualified He qualifies the called!

Never say "God can never use me." God is not looking for the qualified. He's looking for people who would just avail themselves to him. (Jeremiah 1:9, and Moses in Exodus 4:11)

When Jesus called the apostles, most of them weren't even educated but Jesus equipped them and they turned the world upside down.

When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he said: "brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are"

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Those whom God calls, God equips!

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The Plan

- Go! (make disciples of all nations...)
- This is a command not a request
"we need to "go out"... to "the outskirts" where there is suffering, bloodshed, blindness that longs for sight, and prisoners in thrall to many evil masters. It is not in soul-searching or constant introspection that we encounter the Lord...but the power of grace comes alive and flourishes to the extent that we, in faith, go out and give ourselves and the Gospel to others, giving what little ointment we have to those who have nothing, nothing at all."

(Pope Francis at his first Chrism Mass 2013)

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The Plan

- Follow the example of Christ (as Jesus was passing by.../the marginal Jew)
- Share the Good News (*kerygma*)
- Encounters with Christ (*leitourgia*)
- Compassion and Justice (*diakonia*)
- Form faith communities (*koinonia*)
- Be disciples not just believers (what's the difference?)
- Reach all nations everywhere!

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Pillars
of
Faith

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How can we do this?

- We must be convinced ourselves that Jesus Christ is alive today! (Personal Encounter)
- We must be directed by the Holy Spirit (Where is the Holy Spirit today? Can we see the Holy Spirit moving within our Christian leadership?)
- We must give witness to the Gospel

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How can we do this?

- There must be missional activity in your life (what am I doing at local level?)
- We need to discern our gifts and interests through study, experience and prayer and being open to the Holy Spirit.
- Are you “Praying Attention?”

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Where?



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Today's Missionary Fields

There is the *Pastoral Mission at home* which is the ongoing work of forming faith and forming faith communities (homes, parishes, schools, ecclesial movements, associations...)

There is the *Mission to the Ends of the Earth* where the Gospel of Jesus is shared. This can mean travelling to remote and troubled areas to bring the Gospel

There is the mission of *New Evangelisation*. This is the attempt to reach out to those who may have faded from the Church or become separated for any number of reasons.

The mission field of the *Blogosphere/WorldWide Web?*

There is the mission field of *Transforming the World* which means contributing toward bringing about God's kingdom in our time

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The Missionary

“The missionary is one who crosses many borders to carry the Word of the Lord to those still waiting to hear it and those needing encouragement to continue to grow in their faith.”

rediscover.archspm.org

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Being Missional

So, to be missional means that we realise we exist to join Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in God's mission.

Jesus is the embodiment of that mission.

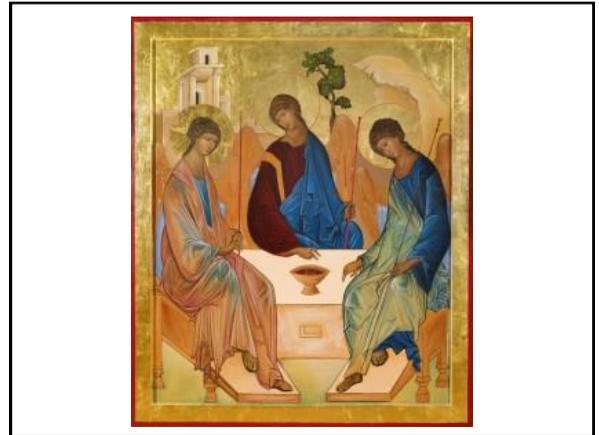
The church is sent on mission by Jesus.

Mission, and being missional, is rooted in the identity of God: Triune God who's being and doing is one!

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Being Missional

A missional Church is one that seeks to engage all of the Church in the activity God has for them.

Our goal should be to move people from just sitting in rows to living in such a way that they are engaged in the work God has for them.

The Church's being and doing needs to be one!

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Pope Francis

Evangelii Gaudium

In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptised, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelisation, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelisation to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients.

(§120)

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Evangelii Gaudium

- Missionary outreach must be "paradigmatic for all the Church's activity"
- We "cannot passively and calmly wait in our church buildings"
- We need to move "from a pastoral ministry of mere conservation to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry" (natural human reaction – pentecost!)
- The whole Church – from the papacy to parishes – must be reformed so that their structures are directed not towards maintenance but toward a permanent state of mission

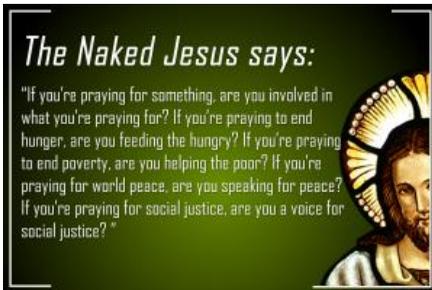
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Pre-Conclave Meeting

Put simply, there are two images of the Church: we can be an evangelising Church that comes out of herself or a worldly Church that lives within herself, of herself, for herself.

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No one is called to sit on their backside and do nothing!



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Discussion:
What connections are you seeing between being an educator and being on mission?

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