

Daily Reflection – 26/08/21

Feast of Blessed Dominic Barberi

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Psalm 116(117)

Mark 1:14-20

Today we hear something we constantly need reminding of in the Church. When Jesus asks us to follow Him, He has some definite plan for our lives. This means He is at work – we must only give our consent and remain attentive. Becoming fishers of men is a practical, dynamic reality that engages the whole person; that indeed calls us out to the whole world.

Saint Paul is well aware of this as he contrasts the narrow vision of either: Jews “demanding signs” or Greeks “seeking wisdom”. These are not bad in-themselves, but each path typified the culture from which they sprang more so than the God they sought. Crucifixion of course was a form of Roman torture that scared the Jewish people more than it prophesied to them; while the wisdom of the Greeks led to a consideration of the divine mostly in abstraction.

The preaching of Christ crucified is truly where the power and persuasiveness of the Gospel is found. This is our focus and hope, and in this the Holy Spirit moves us all to salvation.

Blessed Dominic Barberi, whose feast we keep today, speaks to us in his own zeal for being a fisher of men. He is thought to have organised the first public Eucharistic procession in modern day England when he took to the streets of Staffordshire in 1844. If we feel that the Lord is calling us to action, what profession can we make in our public lives that announces to others the Good News of the Gospel?