

25TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Isaiah 55:6-9 *Philippians 1:20-24, 27* *Matthew 20:1-16*

HOMILY

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

One thing that stands out about the landowner is that he is tirelessly recruiting workers for his vineyard

- at daybreak, he goes out looking for people to work in the vineyard
- at about 9am he goes out again
- at midday
- then at 3pm and
- then at 5pm

Which means that the landowner is bent on giving everyone an opportunity to serve.

In parish life, it is a must to want to involve everyone in some kind of service or ministry.

It is important to seize every opportunity to serve or to minister

- a) In the last two weeks we have been making appeals to the people of the parish to come forward to become stewards in these difficult times.
- b) I also know that the group of cleaners, (**Holy Dusters as the archbishops calls them**) with so many shielding there is an urgent need there too.

The landowner knows that it is not good to have to depend far too long on the same few individuals that were recruited at daybreak.

This parable is putting before us the need to be tireless in going out for others to come in and to be involved but also in the need to be available at any hour of the day.

STATUS QUO IN PARISHES

Many people are happy just to use the parish as a Mass Centre and no more

It is also not unusual to see the same people serving in particular ministry year after year.

The parable is a call to members of the parish not just to stand by but to get involved. *“Why are you standing by all day?”* asks the landowner.

If people do not come along, we are crippling the life of the parish and we are allowing services to become permanent to a handful which becomes exclusive.

WHAT WE DRAW FROM THE LANDOWNER

- It is not healthy for the life of the parish to leave the same individuals taking on several roles.
- Whenever there is a call for volunteers it is time it is time to avail our talents and abilities.
- For every group that exists in the parish let it be known that it is good practice to regularly invite new people to join up.
- Equally, it is good practice for everyone to explore other ministries or services in the parish Community.

All we need is availability on our part!!!