

Fr Alan's Reflection

LIVING OUT OUR CHRISTIAN VOCATION

Our Second reading for this Sunday tells us that we are called to give our undivided attention to the Lord. In the First Reading Moses tells the people that a prophet will be raised up amongst them. This prophecy was fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ. However, there is another layer to this First reading. I believe it also tells us that we are all called to live out a prophetic vocation. This comes from our baptism where we are proclaimed to be priest, prophet, and king. This is what our Lord wants us to give our undivided attention to; answering his call and seeking to live out that call everyday drawing on his grace and wisdom in the process. How well we live out our prophetic vocation will depend on how well we listen.

I see there are four steps we can take to live out our Christian vocation well.

Firstly, to be positive. Sometimes we can fail to respond to the Lord's call because we do not believe that he could possibly be calling us to do something for him. We can focus on our perceived shortcomings and inadequacies. When he calls us, God asks us to direct our attention to what he has gifted us with. That way our attention is directed to see what is possible rather than looking for excuses not to respond.

Secondly, to be protected. In the Gospel it tells us that Jesus spoke with authority. This authority did not depend on the volume of his voice or how polished his presentation may have been. It depended on drawing on the power that comes from God. If we seek to protect ourselves by drawing on God's power in our lives it helps us to respond to God's call with purpose. Failing to do that results in us trying to move forward recklessly and it is not possible to succeed in that way.

Thirdly, we must listen to what the Word of God is saying to us each week with undivided attention. A simple test is to ask ourselves each week after Mass has concluded, how much of the readings can I recall? How many times would we have to say, 'I don't remember' because our attention was divided, and our minds were somewhere else? When our attention is divided, we too are commanded by Jesus to be still and to be silent. He tells us that we are his and he has everything to give us.

Fourthly, to rid ourselves with what is unclean in our lives. What are we listening to? What are we watching? What are we filling our hearts with? Are we pure?

Jesus stands before us as the mirror image of who we can become. He calls us into our true self, as people who are made in the image and likeness of God. If we listen to that voice, we will be astounded of what can become of our lives.