

WEEKLY SERMON

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Come and See

John 1:43-51

My dad is of the generation of more mature people who love sharing funny pictures and videos on messages between friends.

I frequently get a message with a dog apparently talking or a baby pulling a funny face. Some are funny, some are weird but my dad shares them all the same.

When I ask where he got it from, it is usually from one of his friends and has been shared by few people in his WhatsApp contacts. What is it that makes people want to share these images and videos?

There is something deep within us that enjoys the thought of bringing joy to others and I am sure this is part of why we share them.

In the Gospel reading from John, we encounter the story of the call of Philip and Nathanael. Within this story of Jesus calling the disciples there is a key message for us.

Philip found what we assume to be his friend and wanted to tell him about what he had encountered. He was rejoicing in what he had discovered in Jesus, the person who Moses and the prophets wrote about, and he wanted to share his joy with his friend.

This action is a simple modelling of what we are all called to do; that is to share our encounter with Jesus and the joy it brings with others. However, the passage also sets out who does the work of calling people to Christ.

It is Jesus who has seen Nathanael, it is Jesus who was ready to welcome and who had prepared a place for Nathanael amongst his followers. All that Philip had to do was simply invite. Jesus did the rest.

First to show the joy we have because of our relationship with Jesus and to be thankful constantly for what God has given us. And second, to be prepared at any given moment to share that joy with others by inviting them to “come and see” Jesus for themselves.

Can you imagine what difference we would see in the world if we shared Jesus with the same passion that my dad and others share those funny videos and pictures? Let’s go viral on social media, encouraging the people we know to ‘come and see’ for themselves.

Canon Stephen Whittaker, Diocesan Secretary

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