

Second Sunday after Epiphany, 19/1/2020, Holy Trinity

John 1:29-42

Last Sunday we celebrated the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptizer.

Fr. Mark having given us some thoughts on the baptism of Jesus turned to our baptism, its implications for us and our commitment to our baptismal vows and later confirmed in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

You know that you are still on this journey.

Now for to-day's Gospel and where it will lead us on our journey. "What are you looking for?" is the question Jesus asks his first disciples.

On the previous day John the Baptizer had declared as Jesus came towards him, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

There was something about Jesus that attracted two of John's disciples so that on the next day they were so physically close to Jesus that he asked, "What are you looking for?"

They responded to Jesus, with "Where are you staying?"

In other words, "Where do you live? Where can we hang out with you and get to know you better?"

Jesus responded with "Come and see"

They came, they saw and one of them Andrew was so impressed that he invited his brother, Simon to come and hang out with them and find Jesus for himself.

And so the number increased.

They came, they saw, and decided not just to hang out with Jesus for a couple of days but for the rest of their lives.

From then on "Where did they find Jesus?"

According to John's Gospel, they found Jesus in the midst of daily living, providing a wedding feast with the finest wine to save the host from the embarrassment of running out of wine.

On another occasion he provided the opportunity for a few people to share their meagre lunch so that the crowd could have a picnic sitting on the grass.

Many times he showed compassion and provide healing for the poor and the sick.

Along with all of this was his radical teaching about God's generous outpouring of love for all people.

The first disciples of Jesus had an experience of Jesus by hanging out with him, listening to him and experiencing him in everyday life.

We, in this twenty first century, are far removed from that physical experience of being with Jesus in everyday life.

What, then, are you looking for?

Is your reply to Jesus the same as the first disciples' reply, "Where are you staying? Where can I hang out with you?"

Is your experience of Jesus almost confined to adding to your prayers "through Jesus Christ our Lord"? or have you found a place where you can hang out with Jesus and where you have discovered over time the true meaning of the Incarnation, the historical humanity of Jesus along with the divinity of the God/Man, Jesus of Nazareth.

In my thinking about this in recent months I came across two names from the early part of last century.

First, there was Baron von Hugel, an Austrian philosopher, author, spiritual director, born in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and who died in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Secondly, Evelyn Underhill, an English mystic, philosopher and author of fiction and religious writing.

Von Hugel became her spiritual director and in the course of which he discovered that Evelyn's mysticism and spirituality was all directed around the Father alone.

His suggestion was that she should introduce into her prayers visualization of Gospel events to give her a greater understanding of historical aspects of the Incarnation of Jesus as God in the Flesh.

Later Evelyn wrote that it took years for her to have any experience of Jesus as Lord.

It was like the sun rising very slowly and then suddenly one knew what it was.

This was all part of her journey and what of your journey? What are you looking for, to hang out to experience Jesus of the Incarnation for yourself?

You can do this by looking deeply into your life and life around you for the good that is there and the challenges that you face.

The Jesus of the Incarnation, the human and the divine, is there in the midst of it loving and working within you whether you know it or not.