

ST PETER'S WEEKLY NEWS

27 JUNE 2021



Growing healthy Christians Second mark: Outward-looking focus

In our parish letter this week we continue to think about growing healthy Christians, based on a book by Robert Warren entitled 'The Healthy Churches Handbook'. In this book Fr Robert identifies seven marks of a healthy church and we are going to see if these can help us in our journey of faith. The second mark is "Having an outward-looking focus".

Having made a start on our journey by looking at what it means to be energised by faith. A healthy approach to faith, opening ourselves to the Holy Spirit and seeking more proactively a living relationship with God we are encouraged to take a look outside ourselves. To see faith engaging in the world in which we live and breathe. By doing so we share in God's love for all creation and all that motivates us. We cease to look in upon ourselves and look out into the world where God is real and engaged, the creator and preserver of all things.

In this way our faith engages in the world bringing about the change God wants. It's not such a grand thing really. Every small thing we do helps usher in the Kingdom. A smile where a frown would be expected; a voice where there may have been silence; action where inaction may have been expected; shopping for a neighbour, unexpectedly calling in on the housebound, supporting a local initiative for the care of the vulnerable. In allowing God to change our lives and to fill us with his love as we gather for worship, we take that same love into our place of work or play or rest. To passionately take our faith out, not keeping it to ourselves.

How often have you used the word 'God' in your conversations in this past week, and not as an expletive? How often this week have you mentioned Jesus as part of your life or been happy to share that you are a Christian? How often have people known because of your actions that you follow a different path from that of accepted social norms of the day?

Fr Robert says we should be passionate and prophetic about social justice and peace; we should make connections between our faith and our daily life and we should respond to human need by loving service. We are not called to change the world on our own, that's God's job. But we are called to play our part in telling everyone about God and what he has done for us.

Love and prayers,

Fr David