



# DARE TO DREAM

## Autumn Series

Week Beginning September 19<sup>th</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

## **Before you begin your reflections...**

"Be shepherds, with the odour of the sheep , make it real, as shepherds among your flock, fishers of men." Pope Francis, Homily, 28th March 2013

"For leadership there is only one road: service. There is no other way. If you have many qualities , the ability to communicate, etc. , but you are not a servant, your leadership will fail, it is useless, it has not power to gather [people] together... Leadership must enter into service, but with a personal love for the people."

Pope Francis, Address, 12th May 2014

## **Video - Watch and listen to Fr. Gary Brassington**

### **Prayerfully read this passage from the Gospel of Mark 9:30-37**

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

- Take some time to ponder on the words you have just read.
- Notice if there is anything, a word or phrase that stands out for you.
- Read the passage again and then reflect upon all or some of these questions: if you are doing this as a family or a group, make sure everyone is given the opportunity to speak.

## **Personal Reflections**

- Being a servant has often had a poor press. What does it mean to you to be a servant?
- When do you find yourself comparing yourself to others? Where does it lead you emotionally and spiritually?

## **Now thinking about your parish and local community**

- In the Gospel the disciples argue about who is the 'greatest'. At times a comparative attitude can hamper our efforts to build the kingdom of God. When has this happened in your parish? What could help everyone to adopt a different attitude, one that contributes to the greater good of all?
- Jesus places a child in the middle of the disciples and tells them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me'. How does your parish community minister to children?

## **Action**

Take some time to think about how you engage children when celebrating Mass. Are they encouraged to be involved or, if they are little, are families encouraged to sit at the front so that the children can see what is happening? Does your parish have some children's bible story books or suitable Mass books that parents can give to their children as they arrive?

Does your parish offer 'Children's Liturgy of the Word' and if so, does it need a revamp? Do you have enough leaders to facilitate it? Are young people invited to help?

If your parish does not offer this opportunity for small children, consider doing so. Training can be offered and even if initially it is only for one or two children, it will encourage other families to bring their children, knowing that there is something for them.

**Finish with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the grace to respond.**

