

## **Matthew 28:16-20 The Commissioning of the Disciples**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

How many times have I, and you, read those words? What phrase, or phrases, jump out to you or have stuck in your mind?

Read is again and see what jumps at you this time.

The problem can be that when one particular phrase has jumped out in the past it can be difficult to read a passage without that phrase dominating the mind once more.

For me the words, "but some doubted" have been a key phrase in this passage. Some of them doubted but all were given the commission to "go and make disciples".

It is not the strength of our faith that is of importance as much as our having a relationship with Jesus. We will never all have the same depth of faith and understanding of all issues to the same degree as one another yet we all have the same commission to "go and make disciples," followers and learners of Jesus.

Today though the phrase is "I am with you always". On Palm Sunday the words, "he went on ahead" (Luke 19:28) struck a chord with me. Jesus is ahead of us preparing, and being aware of, that which is ahead of us. Yet he is with us. Jesus in two places at the same time - and that is just for me let alone everybody else.

There is great comfort to be had from an awareness of Christ ahead of us and Christ with us and Christ behind us clearing up the mess we make. I put here two prayers linked to St Patrick for you to use and to reflect on this day.

### **Saint Patrick**

"Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me."

### **A Canticle**

Christ, as a light  
illumine and guide me.  
Christ, as a shield  
overshadow me.  
Christ under me;  
Christ over me;  
Christ beside me  
on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;  
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.  
This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Christ as a light;  
Christ as a shield;  
Christ beside me  
on my left and my right.