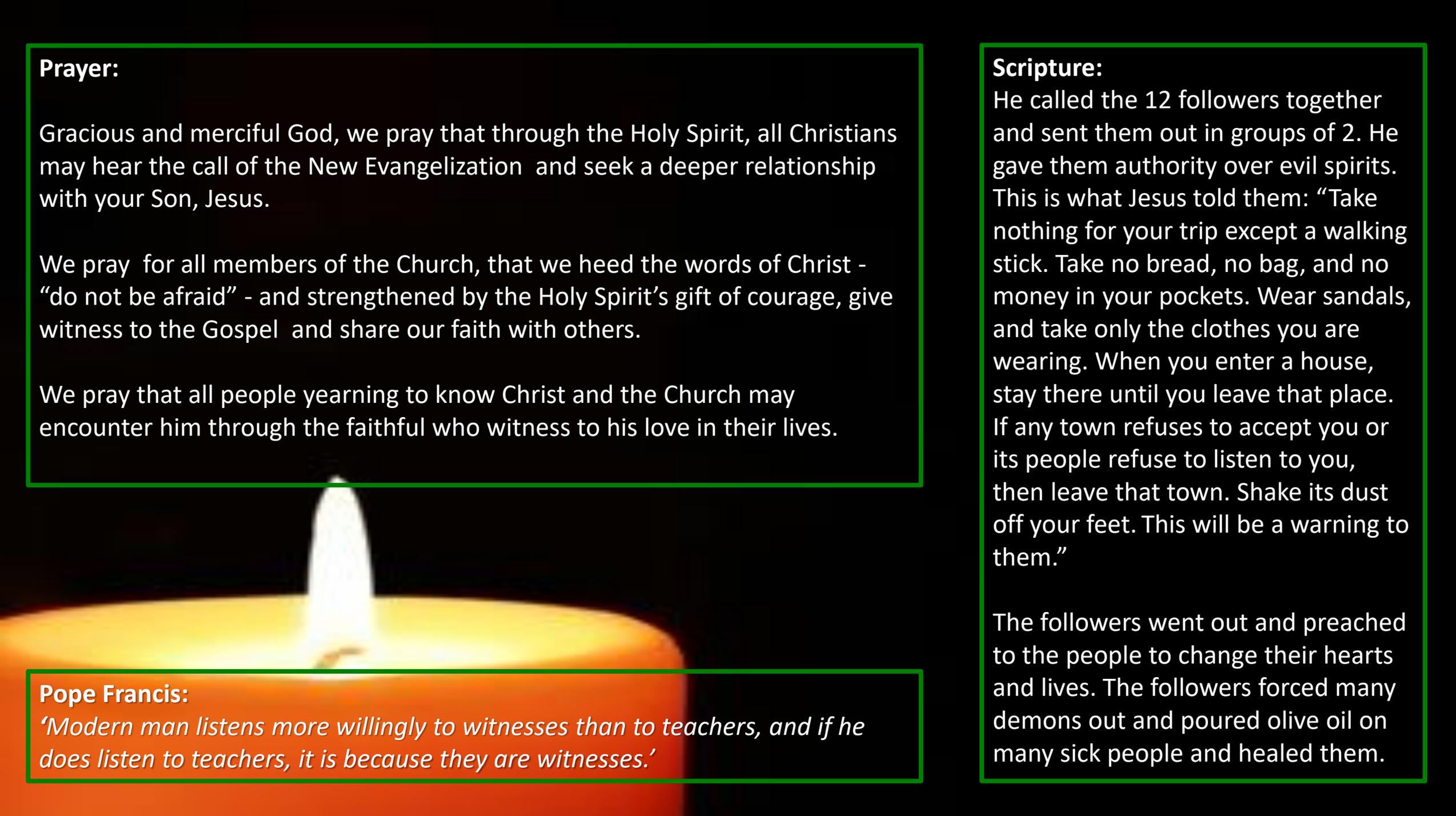


Faith & Witness

As a cub scout in my younger days, I was taught to 'be prepared'. I remember ensuring that I always had my 'emergency 10p' in my pocket for those urgent phone calls and laying out my kit on the floor to make sure I had everything I needed for parade night. This now stands me in good stead for taking the Doust family anywhere today. The tick lists are still in operation. If I ask the kids, 'Have you put your waterproofs in the car?', of course I check myself. I wouldn't trust them to do this ... not sure then why I ask them to do so in the first place!

In the Scripture reading this week we see that Jesus is packing the apostles off to spread the message to local towns. But He doesn't allow them to take the essentials for survival. No food. No begging bowl. I am sure the apostles would have had a few questions to ask Him about this! What they needed most of all was faith. Faith that all would be provided. Faith that, to be a true witness to Christ's message, that He had got everything covered and sorted. And that's His message to us today. Be a witness and have faith in Him.

[Mr Doust]



Prayer:

Gracious and merciful God, we pray that through the Holy Spirit, all Christians may hear the call of the New Evangelization and seek a deeper relationship with your Son, Jesus.

We pray for all members of the Church, that we heed the words of Christ - "do not be afraid" - and strengthened by the Holy Spirit's gift of courage, give witness to the Gospel and share our faith with others.

We pray that all people yearning to know Christ and the Church may encounter him through the faithful who witness to his love in their lives.

Pope Francis:

'Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.'

Scripture:

He called the 12 followers together and sent them out in groups of 2. He gave them authority over evil spirits. This is what Jesus told them: "Take nothing for your trip except a walking stick. Take no bread, no bag, and no money in your pockets. Wear sandals, and take only the clothes you are wearing. When you enter a house, stay there until you leave that place. If any town refuses to accept you or its people refuse to listen to you, then leave that town. Shake its dust off your feet. This will be a warning to them."

The followers went out and preached to the people to change their hearts and lives. The followers forced many demons out and poured olive oil on many sick people and healed them.