

εὐαγγελιστές

BRINGER OF GOOD NEWS

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring the good news of peace, who bring the proclamation of salvation, who say to Zion: Your God is King! The voices of your own watchmen! Now they raise their voices, shouting for joy together: for with their own eyes they have seen the Lord returning to Zion.

The meditation on the five concepts which set the theme for our five-day retreat is really a meditation on your own life. Every confirmed Catholic is summoned to share the vision of the Christian life expressed in these words.

Deacons are ordained ministers of the Gospel – bringers of good news.

The people who make up the Church have the right to look to a Deacon for inspiration, encouragement, consolation, hope – all based, *not* on his naturally cheery personality, but on his knowledge of, and faith in, the Gospel of God. Having said that, a gloomy Deacon is going to labour under profound disabilities; and it may be expected that the work of a herald of the Gospel will work on the personality to the extent that the minister himself becomes used to the exercise of the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. Ministering the Gospel is delivering, by authority of the Church, the message of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, in specific places, to specific people whom God entrusts to you. At your ordination you will be told to

*understand what you read,
preach what you understand,
practise what you preach.*

This has deep consequences for your personal life. Here are some headings to meditate on.

- Do I genuinely believe with my whole heart that the Resurrection puts paid to any tragic understanding of the human condition?
- Can I stay peacefully beside people who are hopeless, broken, utterly depressed, “incurably sick”, and the rest, with the hope of the Gospel in my heart?
- How hard will I find it to translate the theological, spiritual, eternal truths of Christ into concrete expression – words, gestures, deeds – which make the Gospel real for those who need it?