

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA WEYMOUTH

HOMILY FOR THE SCHOOL AND FIRST COMMUNION MASS

(SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) 15TH JANUARY 2012)

At school last week we were thinking and praying about friends. We thought that friends are a gift from God.

It is not always easy to make good friends.

Some people that we think of as friends are not friends at all. They may cheat us, run away when we need them, and be unkind to us.

We thought about what makes a good friend

A good friend

- Invites us
- Accepts us as we are
- Makes us happy

Our Gospel at this Mass tells us how Jesus made friends with his first disciples.

Andrew and John had seen Jesus and really wanted to be his friend. They knew that he was kind and would make them happy, but there was no one to introduce them. How could they make friends with him? They decided to follow Jesus, to walk behind him and hope that he would speak to them.

And he did!

How excited they were as he turned round and looked at them!

His first words were: "What do you want?"

This might sound rather unfriendly but it was a fair question. Jesus wanted to know if they wanted to be true friends or not. They were surprised by this question and did not answer.

Instead they asked him: "Where do you live?" like asking someone for their mobile number.

This was a bit sudden but Jesus did not mind. Straightaway he invited them home.

We only *invite* good friends home so Andrew and John knew that Jesus had *accepted* them as friends, he trusted them and they were *happy*.

In this Gospel we see the three signs of true friendship

- Inviting
- Accepting
- Trusting

Jesus still lives among us.

Some of you are preparing to meet Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time this year. Jesus wants to be friends with you. He will be your best friend because he is perfectly good.

So you must make friends with Jesus like Andrew and John did. You must invite him to be your friend by asking him in prayer. You must accept him by loving him.

You must trust him. You cannot see him but he has promised to be with us all for ever. If we do trust him he will be our best friend and help us to be good friends for each other.

Rev Geoff Carey