**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

22nd July 2018

Have you ever been lost?

I can think of a few times when I have felt utterly lost. I have a vague memory of my cousin and I ended up getting separated from my family while visiting a race track, we wandered round for what felt like hours until a staff member found us. I remember sitting in the information centre crying, thinking that I’d never find my way home again. Of course, in reality we hadn’t been there for long and my parents found us straight away!

Fast forward a few years and there was a new sense of ‘lost’. Going to university was an amazing experience but every so often it seemed as though I had no direction, I was just going along with what everyone else was doing because it was easier. I look back now and see that maybe I could have made better choices in some situations. At times I was, in the words of today’s gospel, ‘a sheep without a shepherd.’

We hear the psalmist today say that ‘the Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want…He leads me in paths of righteousness...’ When we follow Jesus there is no need to feel lost, he will guide us; because of the Cross we can have peace knowing that we have been brought close to Him.

Today we pray for the humility to allow God to lead us in His paths, so that we can ‘dwell in the house of the Lord forever’.

Sophie

SYMT