



From The Pulpit

The brief extract from the prophet Isaiah is from a beautiful poem celebrating the call to live a graced life. It is one of the most familiar of the poems of Isaiah. "Come to the water..." We are called to seek the Lord. To be active in our desire to know what God calls us to. However we are warned, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways my ways." says the Lord.

We do not know the mind of God except in a very general way. In fact we need to be wary of those who claim to know the mind of God. There are those who believe that they can do violence to others in the name of God. This violence isn't always physical; a lot of damage is done by people who try to curb the freedom of others.

There are some aspects of the vision of God that we can be fairly sure of, that violence is evil, or that we are to be guardians of the planet.

After a period of prayer and discernment I may feel peaceful about a decision I have made, or after a crisis I may be able to go forward, trusting in God but I cannot tell another person what is the will of God for them.

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells a story which reverses the expectations we have about worth. Today a lot of people are concerned about their jobs and their security. People working together keep an eye out for what others are earning. We expect to be paid according to what we do.

This story could be called The Good Employer. It falls into two scenes. The first part describes the way in which the workers are hired. We don't know why the farmer didn't take on a full staff in the morning but just that at different times during the day.

The second scene is set at evening when the wages were being paid. Each worker had been contracted for a day's wage. The wage clerk beginning with the last began the pay out. According to justice they should have received a fraction of the wage according to the number of hours worked. To their surprise and delight they got the full amount. As the pay line got shorter the expectations of the first in the field rose. They saw a bonus coming up. However when their turn come they received the same amount. The workers became very critical of the employer. In fact they accused him of being unfair.

Let's go back to the beginning of the story. It starts, "The kingdom of God is like..." This story is told to help us understand how kingdom people live. Discipleship is a gift. We don't earn it. Discipleship is not bestowed because of talent or long service. Discipleship gives us no claims on God.

We can't say "I've given the best years of my life to God, God owes me." We can't even claim to have a special call. If the Scripture tells us anything it is that God can use people from a variety of backgrounds, races, the talented, the untalented to act on God's behalf. All this is required is an openness to the movement of the Spirit acting in the world for peace and justice.

ST BRIDE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER



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21st September 2014 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary time YEAR A

REGULAR MASS TIMES:

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday – Friday: 9.30am

Saturday: After 9.30am Mass
& after Vigil Mass

Saturday: 9.30am & 5.30pm (Vigil)



Sunday: 10.00am, 12noon, 6.00pm

ROSARY

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Mon – Fri: Before Morning Mass

Monday – Saturday: 9.00am
Sunday: Before 10am Mass

THIS WEEK

Tuesday: St Pius of Pietrelcina

Friday: Sts Cosmo & Damien

Saturday: St Vincent de Paul

Prayers after the Referendum

Eternal God, we pray for the people of Scotland in the aftermath of the referendum on independence. We pray for those celebrating the outcome. We pray for those who are disappointed.

Guide us that we might not succumb to triumphalism or despondency. In Christian unity, with tolerance and respect, help us to work together for justice, peace and the good of society, in this land and beyond, particularly those with the least share in material prosperity.

Inspire and challenge us to know that true sovereignty rests not in any earthly realm, territory or power but ultimately in you, gracious and forgiving God. So now, with new confidence and hope, may we walk forward in the light of your reconciling love in Christ, that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Our prayers we ask in Jesus' name, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all glory and praise now and forever. Amen.

O God of peace, who are peace itself, and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive; grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good, and that those in conflict may forget evil and be healed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.