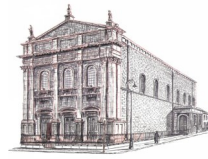




## PARISH OF ST. AGATHA 25TH/26TH JULY 2020



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Jesus I Trust in You

### REFLECTION BY POPE FRANCIS: BECOME RESTLESS SEEKERS

Pope Francis says we are called to become "healthily restless seekers of the Kingdom of Heaven," as he reflects on the parables of the treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great value. In both parables, those who finds the "precious" items, that which is most dear to them, sell everything they have in order to obtain them. "With these two similes," said Pope Francis, "Jesus proposes to involve us in the building of the Kingdom of Heaven, presenting one of its essential characteristics: Those who fully pledge themselves to the Kingdom are those who are willing to stake everything." Pope Francis said that the "decisive and radical" decision to give up everything to seek even more precious treasures shows that "the building of the Kingdom requires not only the grace of God, but also the active willingness of the human person."

### THE COST OF LOVE

In the parables, this involves a cost: we must give up "worldly sureties" – such as "covetousness for possessions, the thirst for profit and power, and thinking only of ourselves" – which can hinder our search. Too often, said the Pope, people lead "mediocre and dull lives, because they do not go in search of real treasure." Seeking after the Kingdom of Heaven, on the other hand, is the very "opposite of a dull life: it is a treasure that renews life every day and leads it to extend towards wider horizons." Seekers after the Kingdom "have a creative and inquisitive heart" leading them to "new paths" for loving God, our neighbour, and ourselves.

### THE ADVENTURE OF HOLINESS

"Jesus, Who is the hidden Treasure and the Pearl of great value, cannot but inspire joy, all the joy in the world," said Pope Francis: "the joy of discovering a meaning in life, the joy of committing oneself to the **adventure of holiness.**" Pope Francis concluded his reflection with the prayer that the Blessed Virgin Mary "might help us to seek after the Treasure of the Kingdom of Heaven every day, so that the love God has given us through Jesus may be manifested in our words and acts."

### CONGRATULATIONS GIRLS!

A big congratulations to all the young adults of St. Vincent's school who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 25th July 2020. We also wish all the girls of St. Vincent's school God's grace in making their First Holy Communion next Friday 31st July 2020. Thank you to Ms. O'Connor and all the Teachers for their invaluable support and help.

### THE SALE TO DISOWN SIN

Judgment Day is mentioned in the Gospel today (Matt 13:44-52), but in the meantime, Jesus is teaching us to use this sacred time of waiting to excitedly go in search of the *treasure and the pearl* that lies buried in the field of our hearts. As baptised Christians, it is *our duty and salvation* to unbury and find this Treasure or Pearl of Faith. Many Christians leave Jesus, who is the Kingdom of Heaven, buried alive in their hearts without ever unearthing Him. This sacrilegious selfish act of neglect leaves their soul spiritually dead. In the first reading (1 Kings 3:5,7-12), Solomon, in his humility, asked God for *a heart wise and shrewd and to understand how to discern between good and evil*. God was pleased with such a humble intention. We too should humbly pray for a heart to be increased in Divine Wisdom, Vision and Understanding of Scripture, in order to help us identify Jesus living in us. The Kingdom of Heaven, which is Love, begins in our heart.

### INNOCENT OR GUILTY?

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are also gifted with the Spirit of Counsel. This means we should listen and take God's Counsel, just as a person does before they come before a human judge in a court of law and justice. If they are wise, they will listen and take counsel or beneficial advise from their barrister or solicitor. God's Counsel is to listen to His Teachings, His Commandments and His Divine Law, so that when we come up before Christ on the Day of Judgement, we will be found innocent of sin. Divine Justice is very real after we depart this world, but if we choose to stubbornly live by our own earthly standards, then Jesus warns us today that, *at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.*

### THE SALE TO DISOWN SIN

St. Paul tells us today (Rom 8:28-30), that, *those He called He justified, and with those He justified He shared His glory.* To be found justified on the day of Judgement, we must listen to the Call or Counsel of Jesus. In His first ever Sermon, Jesus called us to, *Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near* (Matt 3:2). To humbly repent and confess our sins, in the Sacrament of Confession, is to be found justified in the eyes of God. To sell something is to lose ownership of it. Jesus is calling us to sellout and disown sin. The sale to disown our pride, our self-importance, our anger and lustful ways, in exchange for a pure heart, pleases God. To empty our hearts of all sin allows Jesus full access to our minds and souls. Jesus emptied His Heart in order to bring us Himself in the Eucharist of the Catholic Church. If we go around full of vanity, hatred, arrogance, gossip, jealousy, resentfulness, exercising an uncharitable nature and unleashing an impatient angry tongue, then let's not fool ourselves, because the Pearl and Treasure has not been found.

### CHRIST THE 'KING' AND 'DOM' MEANS LORD, IN LATIN

The Kingdom of God is alive and begins here on earth in our hearts. Wherever Jesus is present, there is the Kingdom. It has no borders or boundaries because the Kingdom is Jesus. Christ is the **King** and the word **Dom** means Lord or Master in Latin, from the word Dominus. In the *Our Father*, we invite *Thy Kingdom come*, which means, we are asking God Our Father for His Son Jesus Christ to come and make a home in our hearts. To understand this is a Grace. To truly invite Jesus into our hearts, we must get rid of sin. We are asked to sell everything of our ego-self in order to spiritually purchase Eternal Life. The cost of discipleship is to spend of ourselves for Him. Jesus gave-up His Body on the Cross and allowed it to be sold for thirty pieces of silver in order to purchase us from Eternal Death (Sin). The Kingdom of God cannot co-exist with the kingdom of sin. Let us continually imitate Jesus and keep buying back our hearts from evil by giving-up sin. Let us unite our hearts with the Sacred Sinless Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Sinless Heart of Mary. God bless, Fr. Brendan.