

## HEAVEN EXISTS AS DOES HELL

Blessings to Grandparents and Elderly today. Many Catholics choose to extinguish the flame of faith planted in their hearts in baptism, by rejecting the Church. They fail to understand, that if they are not in Holy Communion with Jesus, here on earth, then they will not be in eternal Holy Communion with Him, or with their faithful families, in Heaven. Replacing Jesus with worldly possessions and human myths, is a sure way of denying ourselves eternal life. In today's Gospel (Mt 13:24-43), Jesus says that we are to protect ourselves from the devil, by obeying and living by the teachings of the Gospel of Truth. To *fight the good fight* is nothing to do with beating the hardships of life or a certain illness on our own terms. It refers to the good fight against sin and the devil's temptations.

### THE TRUTH ABOUT SATAN

Satan acts like a weed that infects a healthy harvest or a healthy soul. Jesus explains how Evilness is like a parasite, latching onto Goodness. They live together in this world and are sometimes hard to distinguish. However, on the Day of Judgement, they will be parted. Our hearts are to cultivate faith, which is compared to a tiny *mustard seed*. We are to let our faith grow, unhindered by sin. We must grow in the practice of love and mercy, allowing those in need, to shelter in the shade of our charitable nature. Jesus explains how yeast takes control of the dough, making bread rise. In the same way, we are to allow God take control of our lives, in order for us, to rise from the dead and be found worthy to enter Heaven someday. The darnel is a weed, which symbolises Satan and sin. Satan tries to plant the dark seeds of evil, anger, pride, lust, disobedience and hatred in the heavenly harvest of our hearts. Unfaithful souls who reject practicing their faith, or who do not *repent* for sins in Confession (Wisdom 12:13,16-19), risk the very real possibility of ending up in Hell. On Judgement Day, if Jesus finds us still tied to sins, then the unrepentant sinners will be *bundled* together and *burnt like the darnel*. A faithful soul will be led into the eternal Barn of Heaven. Practiced faith will guarantee us a place in Heaven. Un-practiced faith will not.

### JESUS SPEAKS

Jesus explains the end of the world best: *The Son of Man will send His angels and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that provoke offences to God and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace (hell), where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous (faithful) will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!* This stark warning should motivate us not to offend God with our sins and to go to confessions regularly and repent. God bless, Fr. Brendan.