

Homilies from last Sunday

Homily for Seventeenth Sunday of the Year – B

Readings Kings 4: 42-44; Ephesians 4: 1-6; John 6: 1-15



Fr Michael says:

Food for the hungry

Generosity and Abundance are two key words in our Readings today. John chose this theme to be a “Sign” of who Jesus is for us. We are invited to eat and drink with Him in our Eucharist and our Meals we share together at home: it is THE sign of closeness and friendship, which allows Jesus to inspire us to use what we have for others.

Where do we see generosity in the story? What do we understand by it? Is it always action or can we be generous in other ways too? We only have a little to give, how do we feel about that? Do we make the most of our meals together to reflect what Jesus shares with us in care and concern?

Look at how you share your meals and what goes on: sharing, enjoying each other’s company, relaxing – it is a sacred time! Do we open up to others in a heartfelt way – the unexpected visitor? Are we like Philip in the story: who can only see the cost and the bother of things? Or are we like Andrew, who is open to the situation and of other possibilities: as he pointed to the generosity of the boy with his loaves and fish. A little goes a long way: does that encourage us to use the little we have or can do, or do we hide away? Are we like Philip or Andrew?

We are fed by Jesus in the Eucharist as surely and as generously as He fed the 5000 and he does so that we too might be open to others in our turn. This generosity is lived out in our meals at home and our efforts to grow together through our sharing and concern for others, with joy – the result of such generosity! We are also Eucharist to each other in all that goes on in our daily lives: our Sunday Eucharist is THE Eucharist of all those we have lived in our week! We celebrate with our Church Community our abundant generosity in serving others, in prayer and praise. Elisha reminds us we are to reach out to others, when he says: “Give (the bread) to the people to eat...They will eat and have some left over”: let’s do it with joy, trust and confidence!