

6th Sunday of Easter A 2020 – Seeing Jesus in us.

It has been said that if you want to make a point in a homily you make the point early on. Then a little later, you repeat it. As you progress, you repeat it a couple more times and finally repeat it at the end. Well, this is what Jesus has been doing over the past couple of weeks. He says that if you have seen me, Jesus, you have seen the Father. The Father and I are one. Then he has repeated it again and again and again. He then adds a little bit more each time. If you believe in me, Jesus, then I live in you and if I live in you then the Father also lives in you. He has then repeated this several times. Today, he says that if you have me in you, you have the Father in you and that then the Holy Spirit will be in you. There is no way, therefore, that we can be mistaken about this. **Jesus lives and works within us.** We are not puppets. Nor is the presence of Trinity within us just pictures that we might have of our loved ones that we keep in our wallet. This is a very real presence. As Jesus says, if you have seen me, Jesus, you have seen the Father. If then I am in you and the Father is in you, then the Holy Spirit is in you too. Therefore, people will see me, Jesus, in you and, if they see Jesus in you, they will see the Father and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit. Isn't this truly mind-blowing stuff?

In pausing to reflect in this wonderful, almost overpowering mystery, we begin to understand better why we believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The eucharist is not just a symbol of what Jesus did at the Last Supper, Jesus is truly present in the bread that has become his Body and with which he feeds his presence within us. And rest assured that given the present Lockdown, you receive all the graces - the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist **spiritually** even though you do not receive the Eucharist physically. That you are nourished in the same way that we are nourished here in Church. Have no doubt about this!

There are very special moments in our lives, some of which are brief, some longer, that surface from time to time. Times when we feel an uplifting presence, a real sense of love, a time that we want to hold on to but cannot. It can be with a loved one, a friend, or an unexpected experience that touches the heart in a way that cannot be put into words. We sometimes recognise these moments as Divine moments, an experience of the presence of God. This is why the year 2020 has been devoted to the Word of God. In reflecting on scripture, it will help us more readily recognise these special moments as experiences of God. Scripture will help us discover that these experiences of God speak directly to the Jesus who is present within us. It will also help us recognise the holiness or blessedness of someone when we are in their presence. That our special moments are an encounter with Jesus who is present within them even if we fail to recognise it as such. But, as we walk away, we feel specially blessed.

For a week, beginning yesterday, we are celebrating "Laudato Si" in honour and thanksgiving for the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' letter on the Care for Creation. Like Scripture, creation is an open bible of the presence and working of God in our lives. Wherever we look, wherever we go, we walk on holy ground, and God speaks to us through the many, many wonders of his creation. Think of all the poems written about creation seeking to express its wonder and its majesty. Spend time this week reflecting on the wonders around you. The multitude of colours green reflect the many different ways that God expresses his love for us. How the reduction in car usage has enabled all the colours to become more vivid and even more uplifting. The more we recognise the presence of God in creation the easier it will be to recognise God's presence within us. Experiencing Jesus truly alive within us, we will want to live more simply; not want to waste our resources; cut down on unnecessary use of our utilities; reduce our carbon footprint knowing that, in harming creation we are harming its Creator - the one we love. St Francis was not being poetic in calling the Sun our brother, the moon our sister and the earth our mother because they are so much part of us as to be family. Let us triple our efforts to treat our creation as such!

Listen to this poem addressed to God by Malcom Guite:

Blessing and rest, delight in everything
Sustained by your strong love and richly blest,
This is the gift you give, the day you bring
Blessing and rest.

This is indeed the 'gladness of the best',
From first lines in the east where linnets sing,
To where the last light lingers in the west,

You lift the cares to which I used to cling,
As you yourself descend to be my guest
And show me how to find in everything
Blessing and rest.

And finally

An Indian cab driver picked up a Japanese man from a hotel. Along the way, a Honda motorcycle overtakes the taxicab and the Japanese man says, "Motorcycle very fast, made in Japan." Then a Toyota car overtakes the taxicab and the Japanese man says, "Car very fast, made in Japan." When they reached the destination, the fare was 1500 rupees. The Japanese man thought the ride would only cost 500 rupees so he asks the driver why the ride was so expensive. The driver said, "**Meter very fast, made in India.**"

