

Homily 12th Sunday of the Year A 2020

In the recent film by Disney, *Artemis Fowl* from a book by Eoin Colfer, it is quite clear that Artemis not only wants to take risks he relishes them. Do **we** approach life in this way? History shows that most discoveries were made by people who were willing to take risks, to enter the unknown and believe in the impossible. If we reflect on our lives, we will see that the best moments in life were the times when we took on the challenges and risks that lay ahead and not avoid them. We even learned that in failure we gained in wisdom and understanding if only to better appreciate our limitations. Like St Paul, we are fully aware of the reign of sin and death in the world, made abundantly clear by the pandemic and Black Lives Matter. But St Paul also believes that the gift of life, Jesus won for us, is more powerful than all the evil that existed and will ever exist – **that is some powerful gift**. Jesus wants, even passionately desires, that we live fully the life he has won for us – he wants us to be an integral part of spreading this life which we call the Kingdom of Heaven, the Kingdom of God. As the lockdown is eased, we still need to be careful and take precautions not to spread the virus to others, to continue to care for others, especially the isolated. We are being called to change our outlook and understanding **and** to more positively affirm people of other cultures, background, colour, gender and race. The gift of life Jesus won for us sees each person as a *child of God*. - This is not just some trite remark. We pay special care and attention to children. We listen attentively to them, respond to their difficulties and needs because we desire the very best for them and we go out of our way to nurture them in all the values that promote life and harmony in society. We can never ever, therefore, take anyone for granted. We are called to act NOW! As St John Henry Newman said: *A man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one could find fault Good is never accomplished except at the cost of those who do it. Truth never breaks through except through the sacrifice of those who spread it God has created all things for good; all things for their greatest good; everything for its own good. What is good for one is not necessarily good for another. What makes one man happy would make another unhappy. God has determined that, unless I interfere with His plan, I should reach that which will be my greatest happiness. He looks on me as an individual. He calls me by my name. He knows what I can do, what I can best be, what is my greatest happiness, and He means to give it to me . . . Fear not that your life shall come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning To obtain the gift of holiness is the work of a lifetime!"*

Without You, Dad

Without you, Dad,
I couldn't be me.
My sense of self
Would cease to be.
You've been part of me
Right from the start.
You are my life,
My soul, my heart.
Hip, Hip, Hooray!

Happy Father's Day

“A man walks into a bar with a roll of tarmac under his arm and says: “Pint please... and one for the road.”

*“I went to the doctor the other day and said: “Have you got anything for wind?”
So, he gave me a kite.”*

I tell dad jokes, but I don't have any kids. So, I must be a **faux pa**.