

Homily 14th Sunday Year A – 2020

Jesus says *"I bless you, Father, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children."* Why would God want to hide anything from anyone – it doesn't make sense. Yet, why is it that we are so often struck by the things young children say. **Even** if they utter the obvious it seems to awaken a new insight in us. Maybe it is the fact that we are more open to children than we are to adults. It is also possible that they see things more clearly because their minds are less cluttered. Or maybe Jesus wants to make it clear that not all wisdom comes from the intellect, from knowledge and understanding, and that wisdom is truly a gift from God, which children access more easily. Maybe a child would see the yoke that Jesus talks about as an opportunity, rather than a heavy and unwanted load to bear. They might see it as offering them a way to discover their true character, their true capabilities and the courage to face the difficulties that they may encounter along the way and see them as challenges that will prove their true worth. Some will see in suffering a way of expressing their true love for someone, family or friend, and especially God. Jesus did not easily accept to die the way he did but his love was too strong to let him do otherwise. He loved his Father too much to let him down or to fail. A child more readily recognises and responds to this love. **So**, if you fail to see a heart full of love in Jesus on the cross – you fail to see Jesus who is both God and Man and you fail to see Jesus the messiah, and Jesus the saviour. The offer to take up his yoke is not about seeing if we are worthy to be a follower of Jesus, a disciple. The yoke is offered as the best way to discover our true character and true worth. It will reveal to us the strength of our love for God and of God's love for us. God only offers us the best.

- Little boy to his mother or father: When I am too big to hold. I will hold you instead (5yr)
- Mama. Thank you for picking out the best sister for me! (3yr)
- I'd better go to bed now. I have a dream locked up in my heart and I want to let it out! (4yr)
- A wise 4-year-old: I think Dr Seuss' name is Arthur. People who write books are called Arthur, so he must be called Arthur Seuss.
- A question: Mommy who is your friend Prosecco you keep taking about?
- I wish God had a phone so that I could talk to him, 'cause I don't know if he hears me when I'm praying. 8yr
- God doesn't have a house; he doesn't need one except on Sundays, 'cause that's when he needs to rest. 8yr
- My mum speaks to God when we need more money. 6yr

Let the children have the last word

The reception teacher was observing her children while they were drawing, walking around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The little girl replied, "I'm drawing God."
The teacher paused and said, *"But no one knows what God looks like."*

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, *"They will do when I' ve finished!!"*