

Homily 26th Sunday Year A 2020

Jesus story about the two sons throws up one of the constant worries: *who to believe*. More and more people are being scammed on the internet. It is difficult to know who is telling the truth? Today, the government says one thing and medical experts say something else. We often wonder what lies beneath the surface of the people we meet. We are even unclear as to what to think about ourselves, especially because we also change our minds. Yet, God made us this way with all our strengths and weaknesses, our foibles, likes and dislikes and yet is always ready to take us on our word; even after we have failed many times over. God must be the one and only eternal optimist; always, always, always thinking the best of us, despite knowing that we might fail. Having been privileged to attend some recent art appreciation talks, I have discovered the hidden riches, wonder and power of paintings. They not only reflect the authority, energy and giftedness of the painter but how the use of paint is able to highlight different features of people, places and nature. It brought to light the fact that we are all portraits of God. Portraits that are continually being refreshed, re-presented in a new way. We need time not only to enter into the portrait but time for the portrait to speak to us of God. The optimist can always find the good within people. Although it may be hard to find the good in our enemies and those who are evil, the creator is present in them, too, and maybe you or I are the only ones who can allow that presence to surface within them!!! It is always easier to see God's presence in others, less easy to find God's presence in ourselves except on special occasions. Old wisdom states that it ***takes one to know one***. You can always find the presence of God in others, in places and in nature, because that presence of God is in you!

A poem by Appolus:

You made the sun and the moon	And all this with Love.
You put the stars in the heavens	And the clouds high above.
I see the mountains so high	They stand in your name.
I see the birds in the sky	I hear them sing of your fame
Man praises man for painting these things	
	Yet it is because of God that the bird sings.
Open your eyes and watch the dolphin dance upon the waves	
	Open your heart and know that our creator Jesus saves
Watch a baby crawl Hear a man laugh and sing	
See a mother's tears of anguish	And know that life is not a simple thing
To laugh, to cry, to feel, to see	I am truly amazed just to be
To hear, to touch, to breathe, to sigh	A walking miracle from the one on high.
As you live your lives no matter where	Dancing or crying, always be aware
Its better to have lived than not at all	For this is your chance to hear the Masters call.

A story sent to me:

Mummy told 3 yr old Jemima that her aunt would be visiting with Jemima's two young cousins to play after school and to have some food and a drink. As it had been a very busy week for everyone, Mummy told Jemima that Auntie is getting a taxi home because she's going to have a drink, and she can't drink and drive. Jemima said '*Noooooo mummy, it's OK because Auntie can use one hand to drive, and one hand for her drink!!*'