

Homily 27th Sunday Year A 2020

Today's vineyard parable makes me feel very uncomfortable. In both vineyard stories, God prepares the vineyard to produce fruit. We have been born into the wealthiest 20% of the world while the rest of the world struggles just to survive. We have often worked hard for ourselves, our families and for what we have, but ultimately it is God who put us into this place where we are able to do this. Most of the world have neither the means nor the possibility of becoming rich. There will come a time when we will be judged on how well we used the fruits with which we have been blessed. Of course, we cannot change the appalling imbalance in the world on our own, it needs a global collaboration of the rich countries working together to correct it, something we know is possible. The global pandemic is teaching us that we can beat Covid-19 if we work together and, if we do, all will benefit. If we don't, as Jesus says, we will lose everything, including our lives. At the moment we use technology and chemicals to produce more food, fuller crops and fatter animals but lose out on nutrition and simultaneously destroy the land. If we work with the land and allow it to develop in the way it knows best, we will have a greater abundance of food, have healthier and more nutritious animals and land that is life-giving. The balance in nature would return and the earth's ecosystem would restore a balanced healthy creation. It will even soak up the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and allow us to breath cleaner air. By putting reverence, dignity, honour and respect for others and for creation first, rather than money, we will be able to live our lives without fear for the future.

All people of the earth, each and every nation
arise and rejoice at the continued creation,
of beauty, of springtime, the yearly rebirth
of our protector, our home, our own Mother Earth!

Who despite our apparent lack of care
creates bountiful splendour for all to share.

From mountain tops to the deepest sea
all wonderful earthly miracles burst free!

Yet this miracle of renewal requires the helping hand
of people to replenish and renew the land
From the largest of cities to the most remote farms
to unite in spirit and with the strongest arms.

Become a midwife to the birth of each flower,
a guardian of our resources, hour by hour.

We must learn to take time to appreciate
the miracles none of which did we create.

For God has given this wonderful treasure
and its preservation will be the measure
of people who recognize and will celebrate
the birth of each season before it's too late.

In citizenship, in willingness to toil
we must bend our backs and tend the soil.

In stewardship, arise and applaud the worth
of the wondrous marvel of our Living Earth!

Consider creation. . . Consider it now!!

Should locksmiths be in lockdown ... Or are they key-workers?

What did the Judge say to the Dentist? Do you swear to pull the tooth, the whole tooth and nothing but the tooth!