

Homily 30th Sunday Year A 2020

Love God and love your neighbour – what could be easier? And yet we make a pig's ear of it! *My apologies to the pigs!!* Since everything is imprinted with the presence of God and we are made in the image of God, we show our love for both by loving our neighbour. Pope Francis reflects this in his recent encyclical entitled ***Fratelli tutti***:

Professing faith in God as the creator of all human beings, or even simply recognising that all people possess an inherent dignity, has concrete consequences for how people should treat one another and make decisions in politics, economics and social life.

Human beings have the same inviolable dignity in every age of history and no one can consider himself or herself authorised by particular situations to deny this conviction or to act against it

The parable of the Good Samaritan eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the good Samaritan. This means that, as Exodus points out, we are challenged to share and help everyone without discrimination: strangers, migrants, refugees, the poor, the hungry, the wounded, people of any skin colour - all suffering humanity.

The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good.

The pain, uncertainty and fear, and the realisation of our own limitations, brought on by the pandemic have only made it all the more urgent that we rethink our styles of life, our relationships, the organization of our societies and, above all, the meaning of our existence.

We need a catechesis and preaching that "speaks more directly and clearly about the social meaning of existence, the fraternal dimension of spirituality, our conviction of the inalienable dignity of each person and our reasons for loving and accepting all our brothers and sisters.

Catholic social teaching on "the universal destination of goods" and "the common use of created goods" declares that God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favouring anyone.

Calling us to work together for the common good, he writes *"if only we might rediscover once and for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human family can experience a rebirth; with all its faces, all its hands and all its voices, beyond the walls we have erected."*

A group of friends driving home along a twisty, poorly lit country road after a night of partying and drinking struck a pig that had escaped its pasture.

Although the pig ran off seemingly with just a limp, the boys were alarmed at what they'd done. All 4 immediately swore not to breathe a word to anyone for fear their parents would stop them from driving.

One night, the driver of the car hears a loud knock on the door. He opens to face two grim faced policemen. *"You're under arrest for a hit & run, and you'll need to come with us to the station."* The driver confessed immediately and said *"Ok, I'm ready to face the music. I just*

have one question. None of my friends would ever divulge our secret. How did you find out?"
The police officer looks him straight in the eye and says, "That's easy. **The pig squealed.**"