

Homily 2nd Sunday of Christmas Year B 2021

In his letter to the Ephesians (Ch. 1) St Paul writes: *Before the world was made, God chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted children, through Jesus Christ. . . May God enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope God's call holds for you, what rich glories God has promised the saints will inherit.* What is more, we are filled with God's grace and truth and have another year to discover more of what the riches of God's grace and truth offer. The Word used by John is not just a spoken expression, in Greek it is **logos** and in Hebrew **dabar**. It is creative, a doing and making word. It is the source of reason and wisdom in God and, when uttered, is the creative expression of his vision. At the Word of God creation sprang into being at the beginning of time. The WORD spoken over the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. Jesus is the Word of God in the flesh who lives among us and within us. Jesus within us is like a flower garden of beauty and delight, of light and colour that radiates energy, love and joy and exudes peace, even when we fail to recognise him. Although its power is present in all our actions, the garden's true worth only radiates fully when we acknowledge its presence, particularly in our thanks and praise of God. In opening the gates of this exquisite garden, it sings out in a glory and praise that enfolds people's hearts and souls. This is why meditation, reflection, contemplation and silence are so important. Beauty cannot be truly captured in pictures, we need to spend time in its presence to become part of the scene and allowing the scene to become part of us, forming a unity. In becoming one with creation, we become one with its creator, with God, and with the Word that brought it into being.

God's Garden (Anon)

Plant three rows of peas: Peace of mind; Peace of heart; Peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash: Squash gossip; Squash indifference; Squash grumbling; Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce: Lettuce be faithful; Lettuce be kind; Lettuce be obedient; Lettuce really love one another.

You will have no garden without turnips: Turnup for meetings; Turnup for service; Turnup to help one another.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden, we must have thyme: Thyme for God - Thyme for study - Thyme for prayer.

I have given up social media for the New Year and am trying to make friends outside Facebook while applying the same principles. Every day, I walk down the street and tell people I meet what I've eaten, how I feel, what I did the night before, and what I will do tomorrow. Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening. I also listen to their conversations and tell them I love them. And it works.

I already have three people following me. . . . two police officers and a psychiatrist.