

## Homily 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year B 2021

Read the lament of Job again but first recognise that Job is describing exactly how he felt, which he needed to do, before recognising and coming to accept that God was present with him through both prosperity and utter destitution. In doing this and acknowledging his complete loss of everything, he realises just how much God had helped, inspired and blessed him. He now had a better understanding of God's love and mercy and the gifts and support God had given him in his earlier days. He would never ever take God for granted again. He recognised how great a role God played in his life. The great saints often experienced long periods when God seemed absent, life was very dry, they felt no joy, no happiness. It was called the *dark night of the soul* and considered to be the mark of a great saint. When you face times of depression, times when life seems empty, everything seems pointless, when you are filled with despair. Consider it, rightfully, your *dark night of the soul*. It could be instrumental in helping you become a saint too!!

Jesus was always appreciative of what God was doing through him and returned to his Father time and again, first of all to thank him, to check that he was fulfilling the Father's will - not his own, and to seek further guidance and direction. It should be said, however, that Jesus' will was to do the Father's will!! Note too that Jesus moved from place to place so as not to be overcome by adulation and praise, remembering the temptation of the devil in the wilderness and being offered dominion over the world if he gave his allegiance to the devil. Jesus recognised the importance and value of prayer. We must give the same importance to prayer or become shipwrecked, however well-intentioned our charity, help, generosity and care. Ronald Rolheiser offers the following poem by, **Hafiz**, written nearly 700 years ago entitled, *We Should Talk About This Problem*. In it, God addresses a wounded soul:

*There is a Beautiful Creature living in a hole you have dug ...  
And I often sing, but still, my loved one, you do not come out.  
I have fallen in love with someone who hides inside you.*

You could do no better than recite this little reflection at the beginning of each day, or when you are feeling low or depressed or hard done-by.

Now listen to this reflective poem by *J. Janda*. God says:

*And why did I make you?  
And why do I keep you in life?  
Because I love you  
because I want you to be happy  
because I want to surprise you  
because I want you to surprise me!*

Given God's presence in us and the value with which God regards us. **Let us surprise God!!**

**After God created 24 hours** of alternating darkness and light, one of the angels asked him, "What are you going to do now?"

God said, "I think I'm going to call it a day."