

Homily 5th Sunday of Lent Year B 2021

It seems that the Greeks who came to Philip were really seeking help *to believe in* Jesus. This helps us understand better Jesus' reply. Jesus speaks in conundrums, about dying and rising, losing and hating life, about judgement and death. Not obviously helpful! Yet conundrums and challenges are part of life. The current pandemic has forced us to change the way we live, dying to old ways and developing new ways of living. Nurses, doctors and staff have put their lives on the line and some have died doing so. Putting other lives before their own may not mean hating life but they have made great sacrifices for others. We all face judgement in one form or another. The NHS will certainly not be found wanting. Across the land, people have discovered that family and friendship are the true treasures of life and reached out selflessly and generously to help others in need. Eventually, when we emerge from the pandemic and life is less restricted and movement freer, we will have an opportunity to radically change the way we live in the future. One fact is very clear, we will have to live more simply, to recycle and reuse, change from being a throwaway society. We must be careful with our utilities and promote green energy. This will not only show a deep love and care for creation but better still will allow creation to love us. Do not think that the little you do in face of the immense challenge is insignificant. Listen to this story:

The Weight of a Snowflake by Joseph Jaworski

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake", said the robin to the dove.

"Why, it weighs nothing at all," replied the dove.

"In that case," the robin went on, "I must tell you a wonderful story. I was sitting on a branch of a fir tree, close to its trunk," the robin began, "when snow began to fall... not heavily, not in a raging blizzard. No. It was just like a dream without any violence. Since I had nothing better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the needles and twigs of my branch. I reached the number 3,741,952. Then, when the 3,741,953 snowflake, a snowflake that weighs next to nothing as you said, dropped onto the branch, the branch suddenly broke off!"

With that the robin flew away.

The dove thought about the story and said to herself, "I sometimes think that all my efforts and the little I can do make no difference. We might think they are nothing at all, but if we put all our efforts together, great things are possible."

Lord, you've blessed me with friends, laughter and fun,
with rain that's as soft as the light from the sun.
You've blessed me with stars to brighten each night.
You've given me help to know wrong from right.
You've given me plenty, so please give me too,
a heart that is always **Grateful** to you.