

Homily 17th Sunday Year B 2021

Is the gospel today about people being hungry for food or for something more? Yes, the food was essential but their real hunger was for God's love, a love they experienced in Jesus - in his person, in his words and in his actions. As with food, they needed time to digest this and what better way than having a picnic together! They recognised in Jesus a love that valued their presence, that affirmed the goodness of their lives, that encouraged them to reach out to others, which they were probably doing already. They were reassured that God was always present for them, a merciful God who wanted to help them through all life's ups and downs, joys and sorrows, a God who saw failure as a means of growth and an opportunity to be better. Individual as all these hungers are, they are shared universally and, however much these hungers are filled by Jesus, they have to be shared with others in order to mature healthily. *"Don't ever underestimate the impact that you may have on someone else's life."* Anonymous. *"Could anything be better than Waking up every day knowing that lots of people are smiling because you chose to impact lives, making the world a better place."* Anyaele Sam Chiyson

Let us ask *What were Jesus' hungers?* It is probable that he realised the people were hungry because he was hungry too. His hungers would have been concern for his disciples, that those who heard him became open to the presence of God and especially God's love for them.

In Australia, each week hundreds of voluntary chefs cook food for charity **FareShare**, making 5000 healthy and free meals a day for people in crisis. "Our volunteers care about the community and discovered that giving back brings them great joy," says Lucy Farmer of FareShare. "We help people who find themselves in desperate circumstances through no fault of their own." FareShare believes food should not be wasted and no one goes hungry. Its uses goods that would otherwise be tossed out. The charity has 825 regular volunteers. "Research suggests that volunteers are happier people and that giving has more pleasure than receiving!" Last year FareShare rescued more than 820 tonnes of food. 1,158,569 meals a year are vacuum packed and distributed to homeless shelters, women's refuges, crisis centres and disadvantaged schools. "It costs 75 cents for FareShare to cook a free meal for someone in need – \$15 will fund 20 meals, enough to feed a family a wholesome meal every day for a week.

Our Food Bank and Feedup Warmup over a similar service. Christ is always nearer to us than we think.

Why do the French eat snails? They don't like fast food.

What do you call a sad coffee? Depresso.

What kind of key opens a banana? A monkey.

