

Homily 3rd Sunday Year C Unity Week 2022

Among the reasons Jesus came live among us was our fragility, uncertainties and failures. Taking a theme from the Old Testament Jesus introduces himself by talking about healing, setting free, and seeing the truth, beauty and goodness of the world around us. In praying for Christian Unity, the key word is **Unity** not disunity. So, we focus on the strengths, the shared goodness, and the shared concerns for the poor and vulnerable. In those parts of the world that are starving and thirsting to death, we wish to be a light and hope. It is with our shared goodness, who we call Christ, that we are able to support each other and bring goodness into the lives of those who depend on us not only for help but also for life. We also recognise the good within ourselves and others that strengthens the unity between us. When we are overwhelmed by weakness and hope fails, we place our confidence in the God we worship. In his wisdom, God opens our eyes and experiences to the divine presence in our actions. We recognise that the same God works in and through all of us. The greatest sign of that presence is Jesus Christ himself. His presence has exceeded all our expectations. God has also gifted us with his Spirit, a *'spirit of power, and love'*; the very same Spirit who came down on Jesus in his baptism. Within this frame-work the theme chosen for 2022 is: ***"We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him."*** (Mt 2:2) Just as at Jesus birth in the midst of humanity's darkness the star from the East shone and led the strangers from the east to him who is the light of the world. In his light, as in this star, we see a light that penetrates the depths of the darkness that separates us from one another. The star's light was not only an illumination at a particular historical moment but it continues to shine and change the face of history. Individually our lights may not be very bright but together we are powerfully strong. As Christians united in prayer this Unity Week, we become an overpowering light of hope and goodness. Throughout history, the world has come to know through the lives of Christ's followers the hope that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Together we give witness to God's work in history and to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. Whatever has happened or is happening in the world, the Risen One continues to shine, moving within the flow of history like a beacon guiding us all into the perfect light and overcoming the darkness that seeks to separate us one from another. May our Star, the presence of Christ in our lives, shine ever more brightly on the world, dispelling evil and opening the world to hope and goodness.

How are false teeth like stars?

They come out at night.

Reviews are in for the Chinese flag.

It's got five stars.

Local amateur poultry football team had their new star striker chicken banned. Apparently, he was a professional ***fowl***.