

Homily for 4th Sunday Easter Year C 2022

All of us by our very nature are imperfect.

H Jackson Brown wrote: "I have learnt that . . . " 20 times and then completed each of the sentences. Finding it enjoyable he asked others to do the same from nursery to senior citizens and eventually produced a book: *Live and Learn and Pass it on*.

- "I've learned that trust is the single most important factor in both personal and professional relationships." 20 yrs.
- "I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be a pain." 82 yrs.
- "I've learned that you can't hug your children too much." (Man 54).
- "I've learned you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles three things: a rainy holiday, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights." (Woman 52).
- "I've learned that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk." 7 yrs.
- "I've learned that no cupcake ever tastes as good as it looks.
- "I've learned that all dogs go to heaven."
- "I've learned that most people think that in order for them to be loved they must be perfect." (Priest 60).

Being imperfect does not mean we are incapable of doing great things:

Margaret Patrick, a black woman, had had a stroke and completely lost the use of her right hand. She used to play the piano - music was everything to her. In the Care Home (Sea View) where she was living in 1983, a nurse introduced her to a white-haired woman with thick glasses who used a walker, **Ruth Eisenburg**. She also played the piano but, after her stroke, her left hand was paralysed. The Nurse said "*Between you, you have one good right hand and one good left hand try getting together!*"

Margaret said "*Do you know Chopin's waltz in D Flat?*" They played. Ruth's good hand played the melody while Margaret played the accompaniment. Subsequently they played on tv, at churches, in schools, and rehabilitation and senior citizen centres, bringing pleasure and happiness to countless numbers of people.

Easter reminds us that God sent Jesus to heal what has been hurt in our past and present; that Jesus comes to those who feel abandoned, burdened, rejected, alienated, or unreconciled with God and/or with others. Jesus wants to welcome us home to our hearts. Jesus wants to heal our hurts exactly like a Good Shepherd who loves and cares deeply for his sheep. However, imperfect we think we are, know this: **Henri Nouwen**

Yes, you are ill but you are Beloved.

Yes, things are going wrong in your life, but you are Beloved.

Yes, you are fed up, disgusted, hurt, but you are Beloved.

Yes, you are hungry – hungry for love and acceptance – but you are Beloved.

Whatever is happening to you, there is one constant - you are Beloved.

Listen to what the Good Shepherd is saying to you:

O frail and glorious creature whoever you are, cherish this truth:

there are hints of glory in your being,

seeds of splendour, traces of holiness.

To be divinised is your destiny.

Walk gently then with your frailty; allow it to bless you.

It will not cripple you unless you run from it

Embrace it instead.

Carry it as one carries the cherished secret of a great wealth,
hidden away in a holy, eternal space, like a treasure hidden in a field.

That's you!

Yes, there are whispers of greatness in the frail envelope of your being

The dust of Ash Wednesdays of your life

is tinged with the glory of your Easters.

Your tomb is a womb of life;

for you are hidden with Christ in God.

The dust of your life fades into glory,

O frail and glorious creature:

from the crib to the cross to be divinised is your destiny.

Your original union cries out to become flesh in your life.

Your frailty and your glory,

your littleness and your greatness,

yearn to come home to your heart.

The heavens have heard whispers of your splendour

and God still weeps at your birth.

A Dog sends a Telegram

A German Shepherd went to the telegram office, took out a blank form, and wrote: "*Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof.*"

The clerk examined the paper and politely told the dog: "*There are only nine words here.*"

You could send another 'Woof' for the same price."

"But," the dog replied, *"that would make no sense at all."*