

Homily 21st Sunday year A 2023

Who do you say that I am? Asks Jesus.

I have just returned from our Provincial Chapter in the south of France and temperatures of 36 & 38 degrees. It's good to be back in England with English weather!!

In the Chapter meeting we reflected on our motto ATR Thy Kingdom Come. It is a Motto for everyone, not just exclusive to us. Our job is to help you and others to know that.

Unlike other kingdoms, the Kingdom of God is a people not a land or palaces and estates, a people: you and me. We are all part of this Kingdom and an essential part.

How?

This took place when we were baptised and became temples of the Holy Spirit. And where the Spirit is there, too, is the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus is the light that shines in our inner temple. A light that never leaves us and never goes out, even if we deny his presence or cease to believe. So, Assumptionists speak about Christ living within us, knowing that this same Christ is also in you and is in everyone. And because Christ is within you, Assumptionists also speak of Christ around us. Christ within us and Christ around us.

So, the question that Jesus asks us this week is very pertinent.

Who is this Christ who lives within you and lives within me?

The easy answer is Jesus is a presence, and a presence who inspires within us and around us beauty, goodness, mercy and love; is the source of our inspiration and courage, our wisdom and courage, our wonder and awe..... The list is endless. The more we reflect on Jesus' presence the more real Jesus becomes for us, and we can talk of Jesus being a friend, a companion, a buddy, a support. We will also gradually come to realise that Jesus will challenge us and disturb us, and even asks us to do the impossible. But, for this to happen, we must hand over our lives to him. Only then will we do the impossible because Christ will be working fully within and through us. Note that handing over our lives to Jesus is asked of everyone not just priests, religious, those in consecrated life, lay-religious groups.

Maybe now you have a better idea of why Jesus asks the question. Who do you say that I am? But, be very careful how you respond because you might lose your life to him!!!!

I will be back in 6 years with an update when we have our next Provincial Chapter!!!

I bought a set of railway buffers on the cheap the other day. It was an end of the line sale.

Teachers and railway security have much more in common than one might think. One of them trains the minds, while the other one minds the trains.

A train track and a motorway walk into a bar. The train track says "a pint for me, please, and one for the road".