



Bandon Parish Bulletin

Parish: www.bandonparish.ie

Diocese: www.corkandross.org

Tel: 023 884 1666

Sunday 17th June 2018 No. 2477

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our everyday awareness is filled with the material and social realm, but it is not very familiar with the spiritual realm. Thus it is very helpful to use the familiar to point to the unfamiliar.

The two parables in today's gospel encourage us to trust the natural growth process which should not countenance interference. When the mustard seed or grain, God's word, blends with the earth, that is the open and receptive human heart, a process of development will begin. One does not need to control this growth in faith and spiritual awareness. It will grow at its own pace. Just as human development is a process so also is spiritual development. It will happen naturally provided we do not allow anything to interrupt it. We are the facilitators, not the intruders.

A young man discovered a cocoon in the bark of a tree just as the butterfly was preparing to come out. This was happening very slowly and the young man becoming impatient decided to breathe on it to warm it. He warmed it as quickly as he could and the miracle began to happen before his eyes, faster than life. The case opened, the butterfly started slowly crawling out and he was horrified to find that its wings were folded back and crumpled. The wretched butterfly tried with its whole trembling body to unfold them.

Bending over, he tried to help it with his breath but in vain. It needed to be hatched out patiently and the unfolding of the wings should be a gradual process in the sun. Now it was too late. The young man's breath had forced the butterfly to appear, all crumpled before its time. It struggled desperately and a few seconds later died in the palm of his hand.

The story of the crumpled butterfly reminds us that, while it is important that we facilitate the person's growth, physically, emotionally and spiritually, we should not try to control it.

If we could really believe in the immensity of God's unconditional love for us then we would realise that all we need to do is enter into that divine flow and let it carry us along. Even our mistakes can be used in our favour, if we allow them to do so. That's how amazing divine love is.

Fr. Oliver Brennan

FIRST READING

Ezk 17:22-24

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

I make low trees grow.

The Lord says this: 'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar, every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 91:2-3, 13-16

R. It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. **R.**
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R.**
3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Cor 5:6-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight—we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled

from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mk 4:26-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

It is the smallest of all the seeds; yet it grows into the biggest shrub of them all.

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.

He also said 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

CEMETERY MASS TUESDAY 26th JUNE

The Annual Mass for all those buried in St Patrick's Cemetery will take place in the Church on Tuesday 26th June at 7:30pm.

There will be blessing of graves after mass.

A collection will be taken up for the upkeep of the graveyard.

DATA PROTECTION

New Data Protection Regulations are now in place and they have implications for our Parish. An information leaflet is available throughout the Church. Please take one if you haven't taken one already.

SECOND COLLECTION

The Annual Peter's Pence Collection will be taken up at all Masses in the Diocese next weekend.

RECENT BAPTISM

Fionn Kevin Richie Deegan, Whitethorn Grove

GAGGIN ICA ANNUAL OUTING Is on Thursday 5th July going to Kennedy Homestead. Breakfast & Evening Meal €50. Please contact Margaret on 087 123 4093 or on 023 88 39 906 for further information.

O'MAHONY CLAN GATHERING The Annual O'Mahony Clan Gathering takes place on Sunday 24th June at Garranes Ringfort, Templemartin commencing at 1:30pm with a picnic and 3pm for Clan Gathering. Everyone welcome. For more information: 023 88 41 492.

A Thought For The Day

Although Jesus' words may strike us as poetic, they clearly run counter to the way things are usually done in our world. Even if we find Jesus' message attractive, the world pushes us towards another way of living. The Beatitudes are in no way trite or undemanding, quite the opposite. We can only practise them if the Holy Spirit fills us with his power and frees us from our weakness, our selfishness, our complacency and our pride.

Let us listen once more to Jesus, with all the love and respect that the Master deserves. Let us allow his words to unsettle us, to challenge us and to demand a real change in the way we live. Otherwise, holiness will remain no more than an empty word.