

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

6th February 2011

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No.1085

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 13th
February

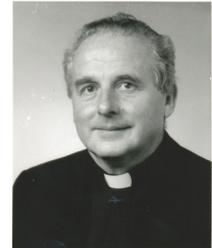
First Reading
Eccles (Sir) 15:15-20

Psalms 118

Second Reading
1 Cor 26-10

Gospel Mt 517-37

"HAPPY ARE THE GENTLE"



Last weekend at Mass, I showed how one Beatitude in the gospel had surfaced strongly above the others. The thoughts and the emotions it awakened have not gone away. Rather, they continue to keep me aware that gentleness is a gift God gives to protect, refine and enrich every other gift. Certainly, without gentleness of heart and mind, every aspect of life is endangered as is life itself.

On every side, there are many reasons for disillusionment with the failure of those in positions of influence to develop a better society and safeguard the vulnerable. Anger is widespread. Anger inclines us to condemn indiscriminately. Such blanket condemnation can gradually coarsen us. It can lead us to a hardness of heart that fosters self-righteousness in ourselves and that wishes evil on those who have failed us. It is a very short step from such a destructive attitude of heart to despair. This can lead us to link our own value and worth with achievement and success and so to despise ourselves when we fail with all the consequences that may bring.

Jesus offers us another way. Certainly, those guilty of individual or corporate negligence need to be held to account for their actions but never demeaned, devalued or ostracised from the human family.

We need gentleness within that flows from Jesus, the one who is weak and humble of heart. This gentleness is as strong as steel because it is founded on a realisation that nothing can destroy God's love for each one of us. Such gentleness does not need to wish evil on another, to speak the disparaging word, to circulate the calumny. Instead, it strives for what is right and brings mercy to all who fail including ourselves. It is the gift that protects and nurtures true love.

May the sustaining gentleness of God permeate all our hearts, homes and lives.

Fr. Tom

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