

TRINITY NEWS

Lent V Perspectives on Sacred and Anti-Sacred Aspects of Our Life.

Some words from the film **The Second Best Marigold Hotel**: “What you like I like, so there is nothing to fear!” We are all seekers after identity, truth and love. As Joseph Murphy says, **“What you are seeking is seeking you. If you see hatred in the other, practice knowing that the love of God dissolves everything unlike itself in the mind and heart of that person. This would be effective prayer. What is true of God is true of you, and to know this is the truth which sets you free. One part of God cannot be antagonistic to another part. The fundamental nature of God is unity and love. If you do not know the answer to a perplexing problem, claim that the wisdom of God reveals to you the answer and you will receive it. Faith in its true meaning is the practice of the presence of God.”**

“Those who love their life will lose it and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am there will my servant be. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour” (John 12: 25-26). I am unsure of the meaning of the word “hate” here. Jesus is not a hater of life at all. But if it literally means ‘hate’ it is hard to accept, even if it is tied to “this world”. Years ago I heard a priest say that he “hated himself”. His whole life at that time was overshadowed by his negative disposition and self-hate. We need to love life and yet reject the life-debilitating aspects of it when we come across them in ourselves and others.

We can see from other contexts that Jesus saw destructive aspects of human conduct that had to be noted and rejected. Life in itself is not a substitute for him of a life with God that fuses with and sustains our daily life. Humanity according to the Jews and Jesus has a bias towards both good and evil. We agree about a surprising number of matters that we accept and those that we reject. Love that enhances life is enriching, but love that controls and manipulates drops some of the enhancing aspects of love.

It can be very destructive if this happens, with long-term damage. Paedophiles may claim that abused children return their ‘love’, but few would accept it. **These sayings about loving and hating life may have to do with the new vision of life that is required for those who choose to be with Jesus wherever he is. This involves the commitment of following him all the way into God in resurrection. This new life of ultimate restoration in personal resurrection and the General Resurrection at the Last Day is linked to the restoration of our life**

lived on earth. A nun once said that "The happiest person on earth is someone who lives only for God." A nun is given ordered time to contemplate God, but Jesus lived that way and yet he was very busy every day of his ministry. He lived to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). What is our daily focus? Is it so singular and concentrated or does it have many aspects, some that "trouble" us, as in the case of Master as he expressed it one day? Thank you Lord, for being so utterly human!

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, March 25.

- Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
- Lenten Study, 7:30 p.m., Parish Office

Thursday, March 26.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: *(PALM SUNDAY)*

Isaiah 45:21-25 or Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22; Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 11:1-11

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

MARCH 29. PALM SUNDAY.

- Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist, 7:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

MARCH 30-APRIL 1. MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

- Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

APRIL 2. MAUNDY THURSDAY.

- Holy Eucharist & Washing of the feet, 7:00p.m.

APRIL 3. GOOD FRIDAY.

- Stations of the Cross, 11:00 a.m.
 - Liturgy of Good Friday, 12 noon.
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