

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost II Life Without Boundaries in the Gospel of Jesus Luke 7:1-10

A Roman centurion, a soldier with abrasive authority, values and cares for his ailing slave. He had sponsored the building of a synagogue for the Jews. He represents in Luke's Gospel those of the Gentile world who admired the ethical and compassionate elements of the Jewish faith. He is recognized also by Jesus as someone who has faith in his capacity to heal, greater than any Jew. It is a stark contrast. The greatest opportunities for Jesus are not for those who are expected to hold the stage, but for those who rise up in unexpected ways to engage him. The deepest love defies anticipation or definition and reduces us to tears because we have no words to describe it. Only the light of unpredictable and indefinable love can open the way into the heart of God who is love. Because we lack a better word, we call it heaven. We all need friends and some of the Jewish officials were respectful friends of the outsider, the centurion. The slave, like Onesimus in Paul's case (Philemon 8-21), needs someone to commend him. He has no voice, but he is commended to Jesus by those whose mission is complete when they return to find the slave healed.

The words of the Gospels stand out in bold relief in the Scriptures, because they are shaped and honed in direct engagements with Jesus. They bear the stamp of such encounters with Jesus and the re-called voice of the universal human from Bethlehem and Nazareth gives them a universal imprint of lasting quality and innumerable applications. Nothing can describe or define the authenticity of such endlessly luminous words. The Gospels are God's love letter to humanity and the central figure bears and exemplifies that love.

When Jesus went towards the centurion's house to heal the slave, he was intercepted by other friends of the centurion with words from the centurion that we will always treasure: "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed." "Humility is truth", and it is of such tensile strength that nothing can break it or dampen its effect. Let us listen for the Lord's voice to heal our broken hearts, to quench our fears and to trace new dimensions of love in our own very special lives.

Bishop Arthur Jones

Salamat: *Bishop Arthur Jones and Claudette Berquez Jones wish to send a general thanks to all well-wishers on the occasion of their wedding. We will endeavour to respond to all cards and emails, and to the anonymous person who sent Swiss Chocolates we can only say thank you very much! Our apologies for any omissions in responses. The Reception was fantastic!*

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am



**WE HONOR AND REMEMBER
TODAY ALL THE VETERANS WHO
HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES
FOR OUR FREEDOM.**