

Reflection for Sunday 21st June 2020 (12th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

“This is my prayer to You, my prayer for Your favour.

In Your great love, answer me, O God, with Your help that never fails:

Lord, answer for Your love is kind; in Your compassion turn towards me.”

(Psalm 68)

I find these words of the psalmist very uplifting as we live through the present moment. If, like me, you find much in our world today that cries out for compassion and generosity, for healing and forgiveness, then our only recourse is to our God whose help will never fail us.

Our Lord in today’s gospel is also eliciting from our hearts this same childlike trust and confidence in His Father.

“Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without Your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.” (Matthew 10:30)

Our Lord in today’s gospel tells us three times “do not be afraid”. He wants us to live out our missionary calling, amidst trials and tribulations, with the certainty of knowing that He is our loving Father.

Today is Father’s Day and we are praying and giving thanks for our Fathers. For some there will be a sense of absence, for some a sense of gratitude and fulfilment, as we give thanks for the bonds of love that unite us with our parents, living or deceased.

May we discover afresh the Fatherly care and kindness of our loving God in our quiet times of prayer and in the love and kindness we offer to others and receive from others too.

“And I do not say that I shall pray to the Father for you, because the Father Himself loves you for loving me and that believing that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world and now I leave the world to go to the Father.....And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. In the world you will have trouble, but be brave: I have conquered the world.”

(John 16:27-28 and 33)