

Homily. 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year.C. 19/20 October 2019.

We have a mission, a reason for living, a task to be about in this world. St. Paul tells us that our mission is the same as it was for the young leader, Timothy; to be faithful to what we have learnt about Jesus, proclaiming Jesus Good-News to others through our words, deeds and way of life. We are charged and commissioned to do this whether God's truth and message is popular or unpopular, convenient or inconvenient, welcomed or rejected. We received this mission when we were Baptised and we say our yes to it, or Amen, every time we come together as we have here to form the Church, the people of God.

How can we keep going, staying on course and being true to-our mission and purpose when the currents of the time are running so strongly against us? Best we listen then to what Moses did a long time ago when he was leading the people of God through the wilderness and they were being attacked by another strong people called the Amalekites. Moses held his arms out in prayer from morning to evening. When his arms got tired he asked for help in his praying and his pals Arron and Hur came to his aid. As long as Moses held his arms high in prayer God's people prevailed. If we're in trouble, being unfairly criticised and attacked for our faith in Jesus and for sticking to and sharing our Christian values we have to pray and ask others to come and support us in our prayer.

In the gospel we heard Jesus tell us a story about a widow who was unjustly treated by her adversary. Even the judge who could have taken up her cause was himself unjust and couldn't be bothered with her.

She persisted, however, and finally the judge took on her case and saw her rights defended. Jesus told this story to His disciples letting them know that it was about the need to pray continually and never tire or give up. How easy it is to give in and to give up, especially when so many others around us are choosing to let go of their faith and the values and message of Christ's Good-News! But, if we do that then we join them in abandoning our mission and special task in life. If we do this we let other down, we let God down and we let ourselves down as well.

In calling us to be people who support one another and never give up praying God is offering us a lifeline of courage, strength and help so that we don't have to surrender and be defeated. As Jesus said, God will quickly take the side of any who are treated unjustly and attacked unfairly. Our part in this battle is to stick to what we have come to know to be the truth and to keep praying for the help, strength and support that's we need, never losing heart.

One great thing on our side is our friend and leader, Jesus Himself. He's one with us fighting the good fight, too, and going on to win the final victory for us all in what we call the Resurrection. Keeping the eyes of our minds and hearts firmly fixed on Him is what prayer and praying is all about. It's what we're doing here now as the Church in prayer; helping one another to keep our focus firmly fixed on Jesus who leads us onwards, never letting us down. As we pray the Mass together let's make sure we pray for each other so that we can conform our will and lives to God, praying always and serving God in true sincerity of heart always.