

Homily. 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year.A. 4/5 July 2020.

If you've found the changes and forces at play over the last few months a bit taxing and demanding, and who hasn't, then Jesus' message is for you. He offers us some true Good-News. This is summarised in His invitation that we come to Him and learn from Him for He is gentle and humble of heart, and with Him we will find rest for our souls. Jesus doesn't pretend that we don't have burdens to carry or yokes tying us down to our labours and works. What He does is admit these inevitabilities, offering us some real relief in bearing our load, along with His help and guidance in getting done what is ours to do.

It's Jesus' offer of partnership and help that we find ourselves able to access because of our faith in and relationship with Him, a partnership of grace that, when entered, draws us closer to Our Lord and deeper in the life of God's self. With Jesus yoked in beside us, supporting, guiding and helping us carry our burdens, we learn of God's compassion and just how much God cares for all of us. Over time, we are drawn into the inner divine life of God the Father, through the Son who has chosen to reveal God to us, until we know God as God knows us and as Jesus does, too.

St. Paul says that this is spiritual living. He contrasts it with unspiritual living which relies only on ourselves and our own self-made resources, easily stretched and quickly depleted as we're discovering yet again during this time of pandemic. Paul adds that our partnership with the Lord is spiritual because it's a work of the Spirit of the Risen Christ living in us. What frees us to accept the Lord's offer of help is humility, a virtue that Jesus Himself had in abundance. He waited until John the Baptist had

prepared His way. He chose to work in a team with men and women who, like us, were all too fallible, too fickle. He put His faith in God even in the darkest of times, not running away as He could have, choosing instead to surrender His life and cause to the Father of Love. After His resurrection He turned again to His disciples, forgiving, strengthening and preparing them for our great mission; the proclamation to the whole world of God's gracious offer, entrusting us all to the ongoing care of the Holy Spirit.

Just as pride and arrogance are our enslaving enemies, tying us to ourselves alone, so the example and companionship of the gentle, humble heart of Jesus is our liberation. He offers Himself to us an understanding partner, willingly yoking in beside us, making our burdens lighter and our cares easier. His invitation to 'come to Him' allows us rejoice today in difficult times for we are sure that the Spirit of God that raised Jesus from the dead will give life to us and our own mortal bodies through the same Spirit living now in us.