

Homily. 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year.B. 26/27 June 2021.

Our desire is to live fully and freely in a way befitting our dignity and dreams. This desire, written into our human hearts, has been enshrined in all manner of constitutions, decrees and declarations. Yet, none of this writing and declaring would be necessary if our desire were not so often opposed, hindered and frustrated by people, rulers, various regimes and the realities of our mortal frailty.

The stories of the 12 year old girl and the woman with incurable bleeding, one at the beginning of her potential fruitfulness and the other at her end, are about the work of the God of life present and active in Jesus. Both of these intertwined stories are also about people who desperately, as their last resort and hope, turned to the Lord in faith. Neither Jairus, the little girl's father, nor the woman ended up disappointed, though in both cases their faith was challenged and needed to be witnessed before all.

Such as her shame about her illness, the woman had to creep up secretly and touch Jesus robe. Feeling healing and life-giving power flowing outwards Jesus insisted that the person who touched Him identify themselves publicly. In fear and trembling she did so, revealing all to Jesus and the onlookers. In response Jesus just as publicly praised her faith before everyone. As for Jairus, an important and respected public official, hat in hand he went to Jesus pleading for his daughter's life. When they eventually arrived at his home it all seemed to be in vain, for they found that the girl had died.

In response Jesus asked Jairus only to have faith and not be afraid.

Then, declaring to the weeping and wailing crowd that the child was not

dead but asleep the mood changed and they all laughed at Him, albeit in mockery and ridicule. There wasn't much faith to be found in the mourners but only in Jairus for the girl was his child and love of his heart.

The ancient Aramaic words of Jesus all of these centuries later tell us of the importance of what the Lord said and did. 'Talitha kum'Little girl, I tell you to get up! Such simple words, real and brimming with assurance and confidence, powerful words bringing her and all of her hope and potential back from the next world into this world of ours. As the Wisdom reading said; Death was not God's doing. God takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living. To be - for this God created all.

Whenever loss, illness, diminishment and death come, and they will, we can choose to give way to despair and defeat as so many do. Or, like the woman and Jairus, we can keep ourselves focused on Jesus, holding onto our faith so that no matter what we are undeterred in our desire to live as God wills, for we know that what God wills God will bring about.

This is the power of resurrection faith, of Jesus living within us now, leading us into the home and embrace of the Father for whom all people are in fact forever alive. This is our witness to the eternal God who has come so that we might have life now, and in Jesus Christ the Lord, come one day as He promised to have it to the full.