

Homily. 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year.B. 31/7-1/8 2021.

What we have to do is the work of deepening, strengthening and sharing our faith in Jesus Christ. St. Paul describes this work as giving up our old ways of living so that we allow a renewal of our minds and ways of thinking to happen. This comes about, Paul says, through a spiritual revolution, creating in us a 'new self' formed in God's way of goodness and holiness in the truth. This new way of living is a gift to us from God, our response being our work of believing in Jesus, the One God has sent.

Without this ongoing work of renewal, this continual revolution of our thinking and behaviour, we'll be no different to the crowd Jesus was trying to teach. We'll remain as a people unable to understand the meaning of the signs God gives, a people locked into the desires of this world alone, only wanting food for free without any effort, missing out on everything that God is willing and working to bring about for our salvation.

But, and here's our choice, if we do the work of welcoming the changes within us that God wants to bring about, becoming through our faith more Christ-like, then we'll be involved in a life-giving partnership with God and one another which will make us holy in our thinking, living, being and within our community, our Parish. We'll become one of the many small candles alight with hope, healing and love, burning ever brighter, shining out in the darkness of the world. This, as St. Paul told us, is the entire purpose of our Christian lives. It is our reason for being here.

Holiness like this is the name of the game. It's aim is to bring God's presence and gifts to others in all that we are and through all that we do and say. This is the most needed revolution in our time of such great

change with so many challenges. This is the food that lasts, coming to us from the Bread of Life Himself, satisfying all of our needs so that we never again need to hunger or thirst for meaning, purpose and direction.

Remember then what we said in our Psalm; That it is God who gives this gift, the True bread from heaven, offered always and everywhere in the Lord upon whom God has set God's seal. The work asked of us is that we believe Him and by having faith in Him, let God get to work on us.

Then, by expressing, deepening and growing our faith each day we'll be revolutionised and renewed in the image and likeness of Christ who comes to us now as He always has not to condemn, but to save, free and feed us and our hungry, imprisoned world.