

Homily. 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year. C. 1/2 October 2022.

Faith isn't a mystery to us. Truthfully, we couldn't do anything without it. We have faith in our spouses, family and friends, in the Doctors we see, the mechanics, trades persons and other professionals we employ and in the products we buy. If we didn't have faith in our family and friends we'd say that they had let us down, that they were unfaithful to the confidence and faith we'd placed in them. If we didn't have faith in Doctors, trades people and others we ask to help us then we'd be idiots if we didn't find someone else to do the job. It's the same with the products we purchase. If we don't have trust that they'll do what they say on the label, if we've lost faith in them, then we'd be fools to keep on buying for them. Our entire lives are based on faith, from people we like and love to the banks, accountants, services and products we use and pay for.

This is why it's a very big deal indeed for us when someone we had faith in fails us, when some service or product lets us down betraying our faith in them. It's why the recent Optus hack, so much in the news right now, is such a matter of national concern. We trusted the company with our personal data, with part of ourselves, they said they had it secured and now it's out in the wild, which makes many of us wild about it.

Religious faith, our faith in God and in God's Son, Jesus Christ, is the same. We trust that God is with us always and everywhere, that what God has told us is true, that God loves us unconditionally and that God won't lie to us or let us down. We believe that if we are faithful to God

then God will be faithful to us and that no matter what comes, God will be with us leading us to Christ by the gift of God's grace and in God's Spirit.

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that faith alone can guarantee the blessings we hope for and prove the existence of the realities that as yet remain unseen. Our religious faith, then, is the assurance of things we hope for, the conviction of things we do not yet see. In his letter to the Romans St. Paul tells us that no matter what happens to us our faith is that everything works for the good of those who love God. It's faith that enables us to trust, giving us hope. In turn, hope frees us to love and love gives birth to a deep joy in us even in the darkest of nights. The last fruit of faith is action, for our love of God has to show itself in our love, respect and care for others, especially those in crisis and need, and through our care for our shared creation, God's first gift to the human race.

St. Paul tells us in the 2nd reading to hold firm and fan our faith into a flame, giving it the oxygen needed by praying, witnessing and doing good works so that it can light our way forwards. If our faith grows within us to the size of a tiny mustard seed Jesus promises that even big trees will be no obstacle blocking our path. Faith is a gift to us from God. Not everyone has it, but it has been given to us. It's our duty then, as Jesus said, our task, to nurture, develop and share our faith, for without it nothing is possible. But with it, and its fruits of hoping, loving and being joyful, everything is within our reach. This is so because God will be living in us, and as the Angel Gabriel said to Mary, nothing is impossible to God..