

Homily. 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year. C. 15/16 October 2022.

One thing's for sure, that God's timing isn't our timing. If it were we'd have had everything sorted out yesterday, but all to suit ourselves of course. Which is a big problem isn't it, because God is thinking of and caring for everyone and everything, not only the desires and wants of one person. What I pray for might very well suit me, but not you. What I ask for might be great for me but be bad for someone else. As the old joke goes; If God granted the prayers of every child there'd be no parents or teachers left alive. If God answered the prayers of every farmer on earth it'd be wet, dry, hot, cold, windy and calm all at once, a sheer madness to survive.

Jesus speaks about praying for something dear to the heart of God, the bringing of right relationships and justice, the type of justice that's tempered by wisdom, mercy and forgiveness because it always considers everyone's needs. In fact, our faith is all about God choosing to justify us, putting us at rights again with God and each other through the free and generous gift of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Christ.

True and enduring justice is God's greatest work for humanity and for all of creation. This is what we have to be praying for and about above all else; God's saving, redeeming, life giving and peacemaking justice. In St. Luke's gospel Jesus urges us to never tire or give up on praying for God's justice since these prayers aim at something everyone wants and agrees upon; a better world and a happier, more balanced way of living for all.

Moses need both persistence and tireless strength when he was praying that the justice of God would save Israel from destruction and death. In

the 1st reading we were told that he needed help; a rock to sit upon and the arms of Aaron and Hur to help support his own as they were outstretched. Friends who know and care for us and intercessors who support our cry for God's justice to come are essential if we're going to persist in praying, never giving up. It's one reason for the intercessions we pray at Mass, in our prayer groups and privately. They're part of our solidarity and support for all who suffer injustice, joining us and our prayers to their urgent appeal.

As long as our belief in the gift of God's justice survives, so will our faith. Yet, as we heard in the gospel Jesus, with some anxiety, wondered if there would be any faith like this left on earth when He returned? He wondered if we would we keep faith in God's justice, wisdom and mercy, or if we'd just give up on it, giving in to our selfish wants and desires regardless? It was a fair question for Jesus to ask and it's still a good one for us to ponder.

My hope rests in the fact that we're here now, that we haven't tired, given up, clocked off and gone away to do our own thing. My faith, our faith, is strengthened by our shared public worship, prayers and intercessions, a faith that God's justice and peace will come to rule. For after all, when everything is said and done and you think about it, this is what our prayers and all of our praying is about; nothing less than God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven and God's Kingdom coming to reign over our lives and in our much troubled and too often unjust world.