

Homily. 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year. A. 8/9 July 2023.

Amongst many other things that are good, one of the best things about being part of a Church community is our fellowship together, focused on Christ. Often confounded by many of life's mysteries that are seemingly beyond both our understanding and control, coming together to see each other, to chat and celebrate, to pray and to welcome Jesus Christ into our hearts offers us comfort much in our troubles and strength for our living.

Jesus tells us that his way isn't only for the learned and clever, that its best revealed to God's children and to those who are members of his family of faith. The wise, clever and woke have their insights for sure, but God's true wisdom is accessible to anyone who trustingly turns to the Lord. When political policies don't make much sense to us, when the economy turns scary and bad, when we can't understand what our children and families are on about or when illness and disability strikes us from out of the blue, Jesus is there with us. If we only turn to him and give him a hearing, he will yoke us in beside him, lightening our burdens and bringing rest to our souls.

This is the invitation that the Lord is offering us today. He's reminding us not to forget that we aren't alone and that we never need to feel that we are; that we do have companions on this journey who care about us in his Body, our Parish; that he is living in our sisters and brothers and in us. If we trust him when we feel isolated, exhausted and overburdened, then as our servant he will gently and humbly tie himself close to us, giving us both strength and inner peace.

This is the kind of friendship that God, our supportive ally offers to us, a real partnership of kindness and at our service when we feel confused by the mysteries and challenges we face. Gathered here in our community we come to see his face, to feel his touch, to hear his words, to seek his caring help and to receive his own presence and life within us. We may not get the answers to all of our questions and problems, but we will get the support we need in facing and dealing with them day after day.

The result of this gift, of this grace, will be a quiet, steady stream of joy flowing through us, calming our fears and lifting up our spirits, a reason for rejoicing that God is on our side and wants only the best for us, come what may. Let's hear this message and take up Jesus invitation to yoke ourselves in with him. His companionship with us in the work of our lives will reveal to us the answers of the heart that we most need.

Right now, as God's children faithfully gathered together around the table of our Lord, we thank our Lord for serving us, in the sure knowledge that with him as our helper and guide what Julian of Norwich some 700 years ago still said holds true; That all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well for us.