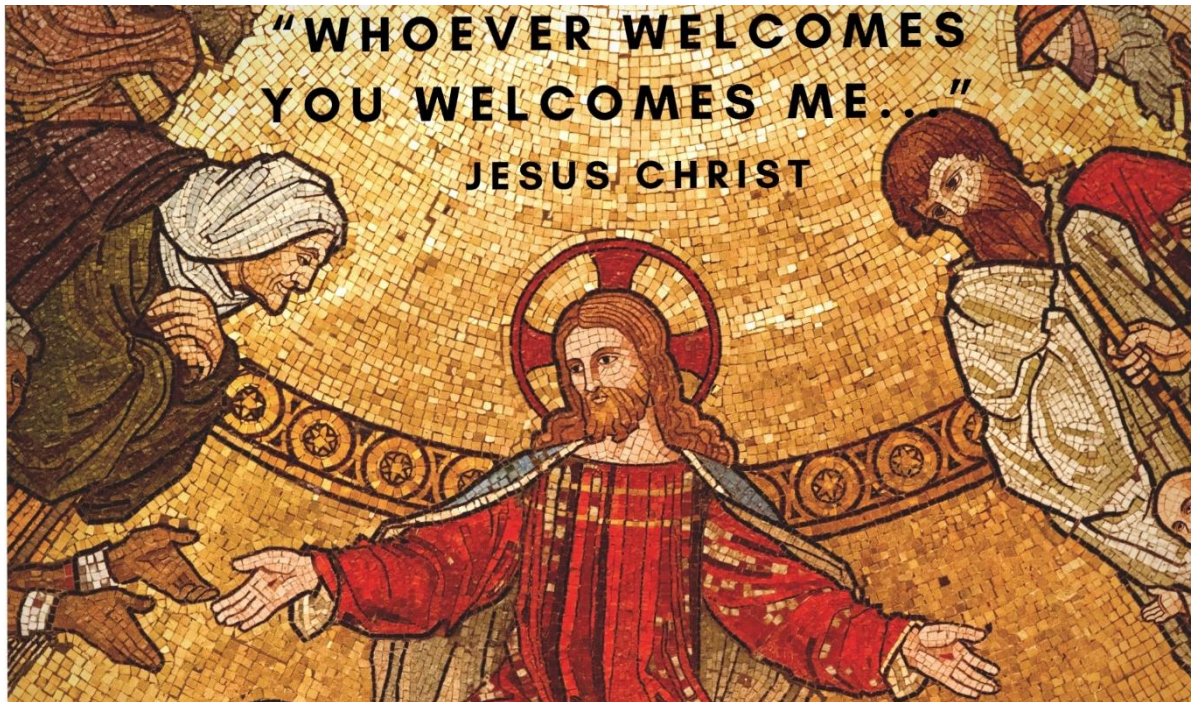


PROPHETIC, RIGHTEOUS & CHARITABLE
13th Sunday in Ordinary time ~ 28 June 2020



GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Part of today's Gospel of Matthew Chapter 10 says:

*'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.
Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet
will receive a prophet's reward;
and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name
of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous;
and whoever gives even a cup of cold water
to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—
truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'*

WELCOMED & SOON TO BE RECEIVED INTO FULL COMMUNION

In late July, we will *receive* into full communion in the church,
three wonderful people that we *welcomed* months ago at Mass.
They finished their preparation and were anticipating Easter.

Then came the COVID-19 restrictions and their reception was postponed
until numbers attending the Reception could include their families and friends.
We look forward to this joyful moment in July.

One of the Greek words above in the scripture text can be translated
into English as *'welcome'* or *'receive'*.

In today's Gospel, we understand welcome and reception in the light of a

- Prophet
- Righteous One
- Charitable Person

We think of inspiring people in our world, good people who make a difference.

Even if some does not believe in God,

God still loves and inspires them through their goodness, giftedness and compassion for others.

COMMUNITY

It is not only individuals that are called to be prophetic, righteous and charitable.

Faith communities are called to be prophetic, righteous and charitable.

How would we describe a prophetic voice?

The biblical Hebrew word for "hear" involves receiving and acting upon it.

To hear God's voice is to listen and act upon God's Word.

Prophets are called to share God's Word.

This requires prayerful discernment and commitment.

A prophet is not someone proclaiming his or her own preferences.

A prophet proclaims God's Word. And that takes courage and perseverance.

We learn from the prophets in the Bible.

How would we describe a righteous voice?

From the languages of biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek,

we could understand the word 'righteous'

as a person of integrity and justice who sincerely loves God and neighbour.

The righteous person daily lives out their relationship with God.

How would we describe a charitable ministry?

This could be helping a neighbour next door, or someone in the street, or online.

It could be through local St Vincent de Paul Society members or other groups.

It could be expressions of solidarity with others in sister communities.

As Christians, we do not desire to be merely acknowledged by God.

We desire to be welcomed and received into the love and joy and peace of God.

As God receives and welcomes us,

so we are called to welcome and receive others.

Are we PROPHETIC in our welcome of people?

Are we RIGHTEOUS in our welcome of people?

Are we CHARITABLE in our welcome of people?

PRAYING FOR THE PROPHETIC, THE RIGHTEOUS, THE CHARITABLE

We are invited to think of, and pray for, someone in our life who is prophetic.

[pause]

We are invited to think of, and pray for, someone in our life who is righteous.

[pause]

We are invited to think of, and pray for, someone in our life who is charitable.

[pause]

PAPUA

We now pray for someone we do not know

- Yuliana Langowuyo is a lawyer in Papua.

She is the Executive Director of the Franciscan [Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation \(JPIC\), Papua.](#)

Her relationship with God flows into her love of neighbour.

Her work can be dangerous

as she advocates for people and their dignity and human rights,

as she tries to protect people from harassment,

as she challenges the abuses by Indonesian security forces and officials,

as she seeks justice, peace and the integrity of God's creation.

Let us pray for Yuliana now.

[pause and pray]

Let us now pray for the people in COVID-19 hotspots in Victoria.

[pause and pray]

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://universalis.com/Australia/20200628/mass.htm>

[YouTube video – Sunday Mass, 28 June 2020](#)