

'TRUSTING GOD' - HOMILY 31 JULY 2016

In my previous three weeks Sunday homilies I have focussed in recent passages on –

- Loving our neighbour in practical ways (Parable of the Good Samaritan)
- The relationship between work and spending time with God (Jesus with Martha and Mary)
- And how to pray (different aspects of the 'Our Father')

We now come to examine the topic of TRUST.

We all plan in different ways.

Our work can involve levels of planning, whether planting crops, repairing motors, serving customers or developing new IT gadgets.

We can plan our next holiday, our next social event,

Our next visit to the beach or to a picnic or football or concert.

Planning how we get the children to weekend sports or activities.

Planning when we will pick up the groceries or wash the car or go shopping.

Planning how to save. Planning our tax return, our filling out the census.

Today's passage from Luke's Gospel invites us to ask a really important question, while we are busy planning.

Do we **TRUST GOD** or do we place all our trust in ourselves and our ability to control outcomes?

The farmer in today's parable puts his trust in storing up material goods for his future, not knowing he will die soon. His future is about himself, with no reference to love of God or love of neighbour. He is fooling himself.

We know that we cannot control everything in our lives.

We have insurance to provide for some possibilities.

We use our working and organisational skills to provide for whom?

God has given us other skills and talents also, including the gifts of praying, listening, to feel empathy with others.

Today Jesus invites us to put our **TRUST** in him.

To keep in contact with him as we go about our daily lives.

Whatever is important in our lives is important enough to pray about it.

Is it important to love?

Include God who loves you and pray daily for the people you love.

Is it important to be loved?

Find ways to thank God for loving you.

Is it important to use our giftedness?

Ask God to help you in deciding how you use those gifts.

Is it important to share our resources with others?

Ask God to show you in many ways who is our neighbour.

Is it important when we study, develop skills?

Ask God for patience and perseverance when learning new things.

Is it important to rest, to relax, to renew ourselves?
Find time to relax with God.

Is it important to enjoy our preferences in music, in reading, in hobbies, in exercise?
Share them with God.

Trust is even more than sharing who we are and what we do.

The passage of the farmer is not just about control and hoarding possessions and selfishness.

It is also about **FEAR**.

Fearing lack of control, we hoard, become selfish.

Jesus calls us to place our trust in God, instead of being a slave to fear.

We ask ourselves in what ways we allow fear to dominate us and enslave us?

We talk to God about it in our prayer. We ask God for guidance.

We talk to God about our attitude and treatment of people

At our work place, in our school, in our club.

And in controversy this past week, about youth detention in the Northern Territory,
And the call by the United Nations Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

He said that,

"We encourage the Government to extend the scope of the investigation beyond the Northern Territory in order to establish that such appalling treatment is not taking place in any other place of detention in Australia."

The UN Spokesperson also called on Australia,

"To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture",

thereby establishing,

"A National Preventive Mechanism which conducts regular visits to all places of detention in the country".

<http://tinyurl.com/UNMediaCentre>

We bring these important issues to prayer, and ask God to guide us in our response.

And again in controversy, we remember Father Jacques Hamel who was killed in church this week in France.

We pray for all the parish members and those affected in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray in Normandy, France this weekend.

We pray for genuine peace.

We pray about our own role, called by Jesus, to be makers of peace in our world.

Being makers of peace is an enormous task that begins within each of us.

We need God to show us the way.

We need God to review what we are doing, so that we can learn.

It all comes back to **PRAYING THROUGH** this, not only praying now and again.

We ask God about what we read and see in the media.

We ask God about what the media chooses not to investigate or report.

We ask God about ourselves and who we exclude.

We talk to God about our prejudices and how not to be slaves to our prejudices.

We talk to God about our anxieties and how to be truly free.

We talk to God about our world and how we can help to make a difference.

As we grow in our trust of God, we are more open to using the gifts of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of our lives.

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – ‘Trusting God’ – 31 July 2016]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/073116.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook post <http://tinyurl.com/h4jret5>]