

HOMILY – 16TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – 23RD JULY 2017

An Italian Priest, trying to get his parishioners to Mass has instituted a bribe – free Prosecco and crisps! I would like not to follow suit by introducing you to another Latin word “Prosochi” which means “Guarding the heart”. It means alertness to checking the thought process at the entryway to our consciousness. The Parable of the field of wheat and darnel in today’s Gospel compares to our lives on earth. Much of what we do is good and fruitful but always the risk that imperfection and selfcentredness, can creep in, like weeds in a field of wheat. A conflict of interest between wheat and weeds, the unspiritual mind with no ‘Prosochi’.

No guarding of the heart ie heartless, would seek in a moment of anger or resentment to destroy the whole field, wheat and darnel. Jesus knows there is potential, hope and good, in all of us – so patience!! You get that for example in marriage, family, work etc.

Those who cannot handle conflicting situations who lack spiritual and emotional maturity, for example, those who walk out on a married, stop grandparents seeing their grandchildren, walk out/resign from their job or shame and disgrace someone who has wronged us. How many good or potentially good bonds and relationships have been lost by giving up too easily? Remember Alex Ferguson’s first season at Manchester United was poor.

Secular world is desperate to spoil or disgrace those in public life by not willing to wait ‘till the harvest’. Everything must go, be destroyed, their whole reputation with no going back.

God is, on the other hand, different. He calls us to have ‘Prosochi’, the guarding of the heart, to be mentally and spiritually balanced, not just to be moved by our passions but we hold ourselves attentive to God’s will.

Be aware of the Devil, plain horrible, evil, wanting to spoil everything, poisoning our thoughts so that we make irrational, immature and stupid choices. The culture of evil delights in destroying good things.

Jesus invites us instead to have a ‘Nepo’, a sober and mental balance. To remain calm under pressure, to pray and seek spiritual help to life’s conflicting problems. To live according to God’s will and not my will. (Our will is flawed).

Be a discerning Christian. Let us pray for that today, what I offer you is not merely Prosecco and crisps but instead ‘Prosochi’, a guarding of the heart and mind, so that the entry to the Kingdom of God will be of beautiful wheat and little or no darnel!

Amen