

HOMILY – 26TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – 1 OCTOBER 2017

THEME – “TRUST”

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells the Parable of the sons who are both entrusted to go and work in their Father’s vineyard – quite an honour, to work with vines, precision work, if you get it wrong, it could ruin the harvest of grapes, if you don’t prune the vine correctly.

Jesus is telling us this parable to communicate a message of trust. Are you someone who can be trusted by a higher authority? Most of all by God? Can you trust yourself?

The first son is overwhelmed by the request, in a moment of self doubt, he refuses, then he thinks about it, changes his mind and carries through what his Father has entrusted him with. The second son possibly lacks sincerity or at least, shows he can’t be trusted. He says yes to his Father’s face but then fails to carry it out. A form of betrayal or possibly a lack of self-will, self-belief.

The whole stability of the world depends on people who are trusted to carry through the responsibilities laid on their shoulders. I remember when I worked in the bank, the day I was entrusted with the keys of the safe. It was flattering but also daunting to think that people in higher authority trusted me with keys to a safe that contained £100,000s in cash. I had to show that I could live up to that trust. That I would not let myself or others down – to be a safe pair of hands!

I am sure many of you have been in a similar situation. Our whole society could only function if men and women fulfil a bond of trust with all the responsibilities placed upon them. The surgeon operating on the heart, the pilot flying the plane, the police officer at the scene of a crime, the priests anointing a sick child, a lorry driver delivering lambs and a manager running a nuclear power station. We draw confidence and hope from those who we can trust, who don’t let us down.

But what of the theology of trust? It is tied up intrinsically with faith. Believing in someone, that they really care. That in a Godly way they do not want us to be lost or harmed.

In the history of salvation, God chooses men and women who will care for his people and lead them on the right path, people like Abraham, Moses, Sarah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Hannan, David, Daniel, the prophets, climaxing in the last great prophet, John the Baptist. He then trusts Mary to be the Mother of God.

Those are the ones who have a Divine responsibility to give the People of God the guidance and the truth about following the Will of God. As the Father says, “Believe in the one I have sent”. The trouble is the proud, conceited, the cynical, the self-centred are not trusting, not believing in John the Baptist, whereas the public sinners are, the prostitutes and the Tax Collectors are open to God’s redeeming love and mercy. If we fail to trust in them, then will we fail to trust in Jesus Christ?

Holy Scripture teaches us that Jesus Christ is someone we should trust. All that he teaches and professes about himself is brought to fruition. The revelation is there in the Gospel. The Father entrusted the Son to reveal to the world the truth of redemption, the revelation of the Trinity and to establish the Church on earth.

We are now entrusted, through faith, to be the responsible stewards of Holy other Church, what a beautiful but awesome responsibility!!

The ordained are entrusted to be 'persona Church' to the People of God. The married are entrusted with establishing family life and the future generations. The Holy Father, Pope Francis, is entrusted with the keys of the Kingdom of God, as successor of Simon Peter.

So let me ask the question again. Can I be trusted? Can I be trusted with all the responsibilities laid on my shoulders? Am I willing to do what God asks of me? Will I be the good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ? Will God be able to say that to me when I die. "Well done good and faithful servant, you have shown you can be trusted in small things. Welcome into my Father's House".

God Bless