

Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time – 26th July 2020

To have the Wisdom of Solomon was once an oft used phrase – less so now I guess. Which got me wondering why this is so! Wisdom of course is one of the gifts of The Holy Spirit and hence of God, and I guess people nowadays turn not so much to the ‘God in the sky’ but to the internet cloud in the sky – for at the push of a button more information and imagery floods into your life than you could possibly take in or use usefully. But, is information the same as wisdom? Again, I guess not! For wisdom I guess is how we use information.

Apparently we moderns don’t like to be told what to do by authority or institutional figures, and yet we surrender our sovereignty very readily to unknown algorithms, which are often biased in the way they are designed (this has been proven many times especially in the area of recruitment for jobs). We allow our lives to be guided and defined by people and things we have never met or even known, and yet this is called freedom to choose, and we are being nudged into what others want us to do or buy, and so making rich people or industries even more rich. So are we using the information or is the information using us, would be my question?

The classical definition of Love is, ‘to will the good of the other, for the others sake,’ hence there is no ulterior or hidden motive in love if offered fully and totally: hardly the definition of an algorithm! We say that God is Love and hence would have no ulterior or hidden motive to offer us gifts, for nothing can be added to God anyway, His motive is always, ‘to will the good of the other, for the others sake.’ There is no continuous stream of information when we key into God – or to use our Christian language, when we pray, there is only a stream of love and reassurance that all will be well. When we key into God we do not get a stream of words or imagery, we just get The Word, who is Jesus Christ, the image and Revelation of God here on earth. When we key into God we do not get biased algorithms, but rather The Way The Truth and The Life that leads to real freedom of heart and mind, and hence true WISDOM.

The challenge for ourselves this week is where am I going to search for my wisdom – in algorithms or in God? I would suggest that if we choose God, it is then that we can truly discern the pearl of great price in our lives and the lives of those we love and live around. It is then that we can discern more fully right from wrong, for then we are keying into a wisdom even great than that of Solomon – the Wisdom of God.

Let us be wise this week and take a few minutes each day to key into God and pray.