

All called and gifted by God

Liturgy Notes for Sunday 20 October 2019



Introduction to the Mass

Today as we celebrate this 29th Sunday in Ordinary time, we also begin discerning, as a Parish, as an Archdiocese and as Church, the proposals for action that we believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to look at under the Theme of 'All are called and gifted by God'.

Bidding Prayer

for weeks discerning 'All are called and gifted by God' (20 October – 17 November)

Let us pray for all in our Archdiocese of Liverpool, that responding to our baptismal calling, we may learn how to discern, celebrate and develop the gifts of every person. Lord in your mercy. ...



Homily Notes

Today we hear how Moses could not keep his arms raised without the support of Aaron and Hur. In the same way, each one of us can't live out our vocation on our own. We need each other.

The vocation of each and every person enables God's mission to reach fulfilment in the body of the Church.

A person's vocation is lived out in the whole of their life, it is each person's calling by God, given specially at Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation. It is not about "Helping Father" or "Supporting Father" but about building up the Body of Christ, celebrating the genius of each and everyone's gifts and enabling them to be used in the living out of God's mission for the Body of Christ, the Church. It is about being agents of the Mission God has given the Church rather than just clients of a Church trying to maintain itself. As Pope Francis says: "In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples. All the baptised, ... are agents of evangelisation".

The living out of our vocation is an accepting of our Identity as a Child of God and a sharing of the gifts God has given us with the Church and the world, especially God's little ones, the poor, the marginalised, the outcasts. As Pope Francis says: "We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Jesus today tells his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. But what does it mean to pray always?

Prayer is not just words we say! It is how we live our lives. We say we believe, 'the word became flesh', well that means not just a singular event 2000 years ago, but an on-going event in the lives of all Christians.

Is my life a prayer?

Do I "image" God's love, compassion and mercy?

How do I live out my vocation, given to me in Baptism, as a Child of God?

How can our communities of Parish, Pastoral Area and Diocese enable everyone's giftedness to be valued and made use of in building up our communities? The Church at local and diocesan level? And including Laity and Clergy, men and women, young and old, not forgetting the middle aged.

Our prayer, the prayer of Christians isn't meant to be contained in buildings or constrained by liturgy, but rather cultivated in our Church buildings and fed by our liturgy so that we can live out our prayer in responding to our Call and share



the gifts that God gives us with all those God sends us. To pray always is to live out our true vocation, it is as Pope, Saint John Paul II said to “not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium!”

So, our lives are meant to be a prayer; but for this to take place we need to go back time and time again to the well of God’s love, to immerse ourselves in prayer to God. Because only prayerful, contemplative thinking, ideally within a praying and discerning community, can draw forth the deeper meaning of our lives, of how we are called by God to use the gifts God has given us, some of which we might not even see in ourselves.

In Baptism each of us is told that we are loved, gifted and belong to God.

Yet the voices of the world so often say we are ‘not enough’, that we will ‘never measure up’.

We need so often to be reminded of who we are, because we are not just the sum of life’s ups and downs, or our perceived successes and failures.

We are Children of God, gifted, and chosen.

Therefore, our lives are not about competition and winning. Jesus has already won the race for us. Our lives are an invitation into deeper relationship with our God and with each other.

The question is then how do we, like Moses, Aaron, Hur, Joshua and the many unnamed, respond to our calling, share our giftedness and work together for the building up of God’s kingdom.

We must also remember that Moses, God’s voice and prophet, was a stutterer who had stage fright. David, God’s chosen King, was the youngest brother who brought a rock to a sword fight. And Jesus picked twelve outsiders who no vocations director, management consultant or politician would ever have put in the same room. So when the world says ‘who do you think you are?’ we answer a Child of God, we know we have a purpose because it has been given us by God.

