



Thursday 9th September 2021

Thursday of the twenty-third week in Ordinary Time Year 1

Gospel

Lk 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Be merciful, as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Refection by Fr John Purnell

The Gospel for today is not only difficult to hear, it is more difficult to live out in our day to day lives. Today Jesus says to his followers, to us: "Love your enemies! Be kind, be good to those who hate or persecute you!"

What is your instinctual response to Jesus' words?

These words of Jesus are very familiar to us. We have heard these words numerous times.

I assume that all of us at some point in our lives have struggled to "love our enemies." I know I certainly do!

At times we may have been able to do that but I assume that there have been times when it was impossible! The wound was too deep, too raw!

Perhaps the first step might be to ask for the desire and will to "eventually forgive" the other person. Forgiveness most often is a process. It may be a long process and taking this first step to even consider forgiveness may be all we can do. Jesus is asking us to take that one step. We can determine what that step will be! Let us ask Jesus to give us the will and desire to forgive..... eventually!