

2018.11.18 Sunday homily by Fr. Gabor – B5

We just heard Jesus in the Gospel reading and the prophet Daniel in the first reading speaking about the end of times. Thinking of the end of times can be a good thing for those who have lost someone and look forward to seeing them again, but at the same time it can also be a worrying thing, especially if you have an elevated sense of guilt.

Nobody is perfect, but we become perfect in love through acts of mercy, just like St. Margaret of Scotland, our national Saint whose feast we celebrated last Friday, and who became famous through her acts of mercy in terms of helping the poor and encouraging the revival of faith in Scotland. These acts of mercy are timeless opportunities and in every age we have the opportunity to carry them out as we will always have with us the poor, the sick, those in mental or emotional prison, the bereaved who will need consolation or just a listening ear and we will always have people who will need cloth or accommodation, etc. These opportunities are given to us so that responding to them we can grow in faith and be perfected in love.

Today 2 of our children will commit themselves to carry out acts of mercy, specifically by using the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Graham from St. Peter's and Peace from Sacred Heart. It is good to see that our young people also contribute to works of mercy and are not mere consumers of the works of mercy that we show to them. To re-commit ourselves to corporal and spiritual works of mercy is very important, because our initial commitment may fade away in us, and when our commitment gets weaker our motivation to do good also gets weaker even though we know what we should do for others. The acts of mercy that are required by Jesus (see Mt 25:31-46) are not beyond us, they are easy to carry them out.

However it is even more important how much of our strength and might and heart we invest into these actions. The two most important commandments tell us that we should love God with all our hearts and minds and strengths and with all our hearts and our neighbour as ourselves (see Lk 10:27). God does not need reluctant givers, he wants us to be joyful givers (see 2 Corinthians 9:6-7), and he will reward us for the love that we have shown to him and others, already here in this life, but even more in the new heaven and new earth, when he comes back.

What we take there from here is not what we possess, but what we have given away and what we have done to others. Those will be presented to the Lord when he will come back at the end of time to gather us together to the Father. Let us therefore not accumulate merciless words and actions, but merciful, loving and generously caring words and actions.