

Homily – 21st November 2021

Who is Jesus Christ?

Answering this question is central to the sacramental life of the Church. As I mentioned to you; as parents before the central aim of putting your child through their sacraments is so that they have a personal knowledge, understanding and faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour of the world. For you to pass on that revelation, that truth, you have to know it and believe for yourself.

The four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John set about proving beyond all doubt that Jesus is the Son of God. So, the first thing you could do as a parent is begin by reading Mark's Gospel. Its only 15 short chapters long, it may only take you a couple of hours to read it through, but it sets the scene you can access it on your phone!

Jesus is born a Jewish layman at 'O' A.D and dies on a cross about 33 A.D labelled by Pontius Pilate as 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews'. His 3 years of active ministry from the shores of the Sea of Galilee to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem set about revealing the unique truth that he is fully God and fully Man. – PROVE IT YOU SAY!

If you step back and think about it for a moment, the fact that the life and death of one human being can change the history of the world, so radically, that even the Roman Emperor, converts to that faith, speaks volumes about the person of Jesus. He is called Jesus Christ, not like you are called John Smith or Ann Jones, but rather the title 'Christ' means the anointed one, the Messiah, our 'Leader', our true 'KING'. Shepherds and Kings or 'star gazers' come to adore him in Bethlehem, John the Baptist, the last great prophet – points straight at him, after being in the desert and declares – "Behold, the Lamb of God, who comes to take away sins of the world"

It is declared in the synagogue, "Never in Israel have we seen anything like this".

Simon, one of the first apostles, is the first of the twelve, to boldly answer the question, Who do you say that I am? By turning to Jesus and declaring, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God".

But humanity is naturally sceptical and looks for evidence- the evidence is then laid before the world:

- (i) The prophets of old tell of his coming, for example Isaiah, 5th Century B.C. A Messiah is coming that the world has never know before.
- (ii) Jesus has the power and authority to overcome evil, to heal the blind, the sick and the mentally ill and witnessed by thousands the feeding of 5,000 with 5 barley loaves and two fish.
- (iii) He calms a storm, walks on water, prophecies the denial of Simon Peter, his own death on the Cross and the destruction of the temple. He turns water into wine and converts public sinners into his faithful followers – like Matthew, Mary Magdalene + Zachaeus.
- (iv) He brings back Lazarus from the dead and by this miracle seals his own death warrant with the Jewish High Priest and San Hedren.
- (v) The ultimate revelation of his divinity is his resurrection from the unique power to conquer evil and offer us eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- (vi) Doubting Thomas, is reassured by seeing his wounds.

if you think about it for a moment, if Jesus wasn't real, the Church would not exist today. As Caiaphas the High Priest said boldly, if this person is truly from God, then we cannot stop it spreading throughout the world.

Jesus ratifies that there is a Divine power beyond our mortal state. He is called many things that reflect that Divine power, 'The Good Shepherd' The Son of God, 'The King of Kings + Lord of Lords, The keystone of the House of God, The Light of the World, the Lamb of God, The Bread of Life – The Prince of Peace.

The revelation of his authenticity as Jesus Christ, is sealed for me in knowing that a living Faith makes our lives complete – Only faith can rescue us from the darkest evils of humanity. – and many of the great saints of the last 2,000 years, women and men, have, through their faith in Jesus Christ, made the world a better place.

St Francis, St Columba, Mother Theresa, St Margaret.

Converse to that when society rejects true faith in Christ, by prayer, sacraments and moral goodness, the world becomes a more dangerous place. – Evil cannot coexist in true faith!

The Church, must ensure that it is a worthy spouse of Jesus Christ, otherwise it has no authority to speak in his name on earth.

Pope Francis, is the Servant of the Servants of God, and the successor to Simon Peter. He must too be a worthy disciple of Christ – 'St Paul – we are fragile earthen vessels.

I hope today I have helped you have the confidence and the desire to really help your child, to know and love Jesus, as Jesus loves your family in their faith.

God Bless,

Fr Jeremy C Bath