



DARE TO DREAM

Autumn Series

Week Beginning October 10th

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Before you begin read this extract from 'Let us Dream' by Pope Francis

"Sometimes, when you think globally, you can be paralyzed: there are so many places of apparently ceaseless conflict, there's so much suffering and need. I find it helps to focus on concrete situations: you see faces looking for life and love in the reality of each person, of each people. You see hope written in the story of every nation, glorious because it's a story of sacrifice, of daily struggle, of lives broken in self-sacrifice. So rather than overwhelm you, it invites you to ponder and to respond with hope." (p11)

Video - Watch and listen to Canon Gregory Grant

Prayerfully read this passage from the Gospel of Mark 10:17-30

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

- Take some time to ponder on the words you have just read.
- Notice if there is anything, a word or phrase that stands out for you.

- Read the passage again and then reflect upon all or some of these questions: if you are doing this as a family or a group, make sure everyone is given the opportunity to speak.

Personal Reflections

- What strikes you most about the message in today's Gospel?
- What might God be asking you to give up in order to gain greater freedom in the spiritual life?

Now thinking about your parish and local community

- Bishop Declan has asked us to respond to the 'cry of the poor'. Remembering that poverty comes in many guises who are the poor in your community?
- Pope Francis highlights how the pandemic has made visible our throwaway culture and how the Covid health measures 'have exposed for example, how many of our brothers and sisters do not have housing where social distancing is possible; not clean water to wash.' (Let us Dream pg. 17) Is this crisis just about Covid or is it about what Covid has uncovered?
- In what ways can you parish become protagonists for change in your local area?

Action

Unlike the young man in today's Gospel, who wasn't ready to sell everything he had and give it to the poor, many of our young people are passionate about responding to the needs of others. They value opportunities to serve in soup kitchens, work in local food banks and engage with those on the margins of society. As a parish, consider how you can encourage and engage some of your young people (whether you have two or two hundred) to start a project which meets the needs of people in the local community.

Finish with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the grace to respond.

