

Lent 2017

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 1st March. Lent prepares us to walk with Jesus to the events of the Cross and to the joy of Easter, and is traditionally a time where the Christian community prays that little bit more, fasts from the excesses of life, and supports charity through almsgiving.

This Lent as a college community, we are being asked to think about what it really means to be part of a Catholic community that is called to be God's People.

God calls us to be a people who forgive each other, who are happy in each other's company, who can live together in community, and who stand up for justice in our world today, but above all we are called to be a people who love and trust each other.

It's not easy to be a follower of Jesus in our world today, but in the coming days of Lent we are asked in our daily acts of worship to reflect upon what it means to be a follower of Jesus in 2017.

Weekly Theme



W/C 27th February 2017

Don't worry"

Matthew 6: 24-34

"No one can serve two masters. The person will hate one master and love the other, or will follow one master and refuse to follow the other. You cannot serve both God and worldly riches.

"So I tell you, don't worry about the food or drink you need to live, or about the clothes you need for your body. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes. Look at the birds in the air. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns,

but your heavenly Father feeds them. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds. You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it.

"And why do you worry about clothes? Look at how the lilies in the field grow. They don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon with his riches was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today but tomorrow is thrown into the fire. So you can be even more sure that God will clothe you. Don't have so little faith! Don't worry and say, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' The people who don't know God keep trying to get these things, and your Father in heaven knows you need them. Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well. So don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Our Gospel this week contains some very comforting words. Jesus tells us, "Your Father in heaven knows what you need. Seek first God's Kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well." In other words Jesus is saying to us "Don't worry".

There are times when each of us is overcome by worry, we fear that we have been forgotten. A crisis hits our family or that of a friend, or we try our best at some task or exam and fail, or perhaps a friendship falls apart, and we ask ourselves, "Where is God in all this?" The prophets in the Old Testament tell us, "God is here. He loves each one of us more than we can begin to imagine, even more than the love of a mother for her new born baby.

God loves each one of us, here and now. He is not putting his love off until tomorrow. He loves us now. When we are worried we need to stop and think about that. God is loving me with a love that is deeper than we can begin to fathom. So when we worry about fear of the unknown, what will tomorrow bring? Will I survive the next crisis? Will I get all the work done that I need to be successful? What if this happens? What if that happens? We need to hear Jesus telling us to calm down, and trust him. Yes we have to prepare for the future. But fearing the unknown gets us nowhere and it is also a failure of our trust in God that he will care for us. Each day is filled with God's love for us.

Today will not come around again, ever. God expects us to fill today with acts of love for him and for his presence in other people.

**Loving Father, in faith and love, we ask you to watch over your family.
May we learn to place our trust in you, even when the going gets tough. Help us to remember that you love us and accompany us at each stage of our journey through life.**

Amen