

Parish Priest's Corner

Walking with Jesus

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, in last Sunday's Gospel, we saw the disciples riding high. They had, through Peter, acknowledged that Jesus, their teacher and friend, was no less than the long-awaited Messiah-King of Israel. "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." It must have been a really exciting moment for them. It is hard to imagine that this was not a moment of particular joy and satisfaction for the disciples. They now were thinking that Jesus, in line with Jewish expectations, would be a glorious and powerful king. And they, of course, as his followers and companions would have a special share in the glory and privileges that went with it.

However, the euphoria was not to last very long. Very soon after this, "Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day." This, undoubtedly, comes as a terrible shock. This was not at all part of the scenario for the coming of the Messiah. Humiliation and death was not part of what the disciples envisioned. Furthermore, it would happen in Jerusalem, the holy city, the site of the Temple where God dwelt among his people. Peter protested, but Jesus taught him that God's ways are different and better than our ways.

Today's Gospel goes further than just asking us to understand why the glory of Jesus our King and Lord was to be found through suffering and the shameful death of the Cross. There is a further call for us to walk the same road with Jesus. "If anyone (not just the heroic martyr or the saint) wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me." Jesus is asking each one of us to dedicate our lives in totally loving and serving others even if, at times, this involves misunderstanding, ridicule, pain and even death itself. It would be altogether wrong to think that Jesus is asking us to lead miserable lives in order to be good Christians. To follow Jesus fully, we must be able to see life as he sees it, we must have that "mind of Christ."

When we have the mind of Christ then we can only see our lives in terms of loving and serving others and not in the pursuit of purely self-centered. When we have the mind of Christ, the whole direction of our life changes. Our whole concept of happiness changes. Jesus is calling us not to a life of sacrifice and suffering but rather to a life of total love and freedom. The person who can go to jail for his beliefs is more free and usually a lot happier than the one who is tied to the pursuit of material things, social position, pleasure and the fear of pain. Renouncing oneself is not a suppression of one's personality. It is rather to let go of oneself so that one can really find oneself. This is what today's readings are saying, namely, that Jesus is calling us to where true success and happiness are.

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Faith Formation/Religious Education: The education of our children in the practice of faith is one of the most important responsibilities we share as members of the Body of Christ. However,

due to COVID-19, we are confronted with challenges on how best to provide religious education not only for children but also faith formation for adults. To adapt to the current situation and after consultation with our parish catechists and parents who send their kids to our religious education program, we will be having an in-person faith formation/religious education program beginning on **Wednesday, October 7**. Please mark your calendars. We will begin as follows: Mass: 5:00pm Classes: 5:45 – 6:30pm. Youth Ministry (Sundays): 11:45 am – 12:45 pm. To provide room for appropriate physical distancing, children will meet in the Parish Hall rather than in their small classrooms. RCIA/adult class will meet in the church rather than in the office meeting room. All safety guidelines will be observed at all times including but not limited to hand sanitizing, physical distancing, use of face covering, pews, tables and chairs will be sanitized after each gathering. Anyone who has even the slightest symptoms or feelings of sickness must remain home.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be gathering for Wednesday Night Dinner for the time being.

New RCIA Coordinator: I am happy to announce that one of our parishioners, Kathy Cowan, has accepted the role of R.C.I.A Coordinator. We are blessed to have Kathy take on this responsibility of organizing the R.C.I.A process through which catechumens, candidates and adult Catholics learn more about our Catholic faith and identity, and growth in knowledge and love of God. Kathy will work with me in teaching R.C.I.A. classes and guiding our catechumens.

New Pastoral Assistant: I am also happy to announce that Cynthia Kroll has accepted the role of pastoral assistant. Cynthia has been serving as our parish Baptism coordinator and will now assist me in the parish office in all matters pertaining to the pastoral and liturgical life in the parish. In this new role, she will work with parish ministry leaders and with me in attending to all calls and concerns from all parish ministries. She will be available on office days. We thank God for the gift of Cynthia to our parish.

6:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass: the 6:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass was added when COVID-19 restrictions allowed for only 25 people to gather for Mass. Current directives allow for 100 people per gathering with appropriate physical distancing and also considering the occupancy capacity of the space. With physical distancing, the capacity of Holy Trinity Church building is 35, which allows for more people per gathering. Therefore, beginning September 5, will no longer celebrate a 6:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass. Our usual weekend Mass at Holy Trinity will be 5pm on Saturday and 10:30am on Sunday.

Missalettes: Please take a copy of the Breaking Bread missalette home after Mass and bring it with you to Mass every weekend. This helps to avoid sharing the same worship aid at Mass. Keep your Missalette in your car as that is the easiest way to remember to bring it to Mass.

May God bless and keep you.

Fr. Anthony Ahamefule