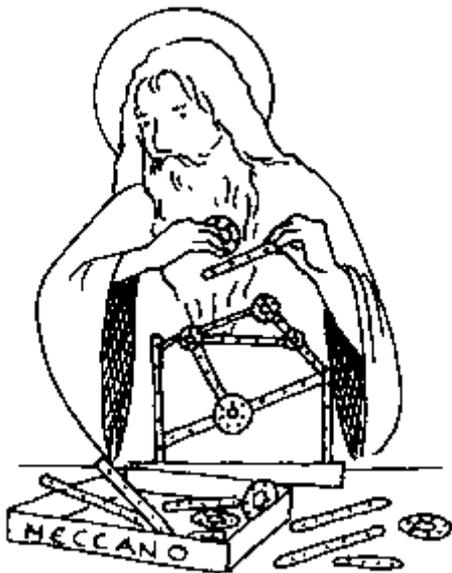


ST. GABRIEL'S BULLETIN

25th Sunday (A)

20th September, 2020



DOING HIS OWN THING

We often talk about people "doing their own thing". We mean that they act in an independent way without necessarily being bothered about what others think or say. Usually we have our doubts about them and think that they should conform to what everyone else expects of them.

If there was ever a person who does their own thing then it's God. In several places in the bible God lets us know that he doesn't think like we do and doesn't act like we act. His thoughts and ways are above ours. Miles above.

Yet we tend to want to bring God down to our size. It's not "fair" that the workers who only did an hour's work should get the same pay as those who worked all day, we say. But God never promised to be fair, only generous. And generosity far exceeds any concept of fairness. Where we are prone to punish God is apt to forgive. Where we would choose the front-runner God picks the no-hoper every time. Where we try to earn salvation by all our good deeds God says that he only

grants it as grace, as a free gift that has not been earned.

The fact that God does his own thing only points to his being infinitely greater than we can ever imagine. Chancellors promise benefits; God promises abundance. Musicians entertain but God enraptures. Artists paint nature while God recreates it every day.

It's easy to fit God into our own little systems, to write about God and talk about him as if there's some agreed pattern that he should follow. (Or her for that matter!) Then our religion becomes efficient but dull. We end up with a predictable God who is constrained to come down to our level and behave as we think he should. This is to miss the thrill of having a God who is capable of acting beyond our wildest imaginations, of offering us much more than we would ever dare to ask for and who falls about in fits of laughter when he sees the pigeon hole that we're trying to put him in for the sake of neatness.

Allow yourself to be surprised by the topsy-turvy way that God chooses to rule your life. It might be the best thing that ever happened to you!



MASS READINGS

Today

1. Isaiah 55:6-9
2. Philippians 1:20-24, 27
3. Matthew 20:1-16

Psalm 144

The Lord is close to all who call him.

Next Sunday

1. Ezekiel 18:25-28
2. Philippians 21-11
3. Matthew 21:28-32

Psalm 24

Remember your mercy, Lord.

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Sunday Masses
during pandemic

9am and 11am

Tickets for mass may be obtained from Eventbrite through the parish website or Facebook page.