

## Thought for the week

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Can't Help Falling in Love (1962), You Don't Have To Say You Love Me (1966), Love Me For a Reason (1974), The Power Of Love (1984), When Love Takes Over (2009), Love Yourself (2015) – a sample from the many popular songs with LOVE in their title that made it to Number One in the UK over the decades. Do you know the singer/group? Sorry no prizes this time! If we eliminated all songs, traditional and popular, that have some connection with love, would we have many left? Love moves us, love changes us. We know only too well the difference in potential outcomes for children nurtured in an environment of love and those subjected to neglect.

Love is at the heart of today's readings. Not the love of pop songs, but the love where the lover is willing to give up everything for the sake of the beloved. The Easter season reminds us of the Father's love for us. He sent his Son for our sake knowing that he would be badly treated and killed. The Son willingly accepted his mission out of love for his Father and his love for us. We need to experience that love with our hearts. As we experience God's love for us we will be unable to resist responding by loving him and loving one another.

Jesus has chosen each of us to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Our commission as individuals and as a parish community is to love others without counting the cost like the first disciples. Someone said the Church is the only organisation that exists mainly for the sake of those who do not belong. Through our love others will experience the love of Jesus and so discover the love of the Father. The fruit of this love will be eternal life in the presence of God and so will last.

Let us find ways to help and encourage each other within the parish to experience the love of God by the way we care, support and love one other so that we are enabled to fulfil our commission to bring his love to these who do not yet know him.

Deacon Brian