

Thought for the week
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
31st January, 2021

A Bad Joke with an Important Message

Someone circulated a rather irreligious joke the other day and, as I was on the distribution list, it arrived in my inbox. Initially, I was not very amused, but then I asked myself if there was a message there for me and for you?

In the first reading, Moses tells the people to welcome the prophet who will come from their own brothers: and in the Gospel Jesus is recognised by the unclean spirit and makes a deep impression on the people of Capernaum.

Now here is that joke and a question for each one of us:

The alien vessel landed with much pomp and hiss on St Peter's square in Rome. A hatch opened and two little green men with dazzling smiles appeared. They were promptly granted an audience with Pope Francis. After a brief discussion about the weather, the Pope said,

"I know this question may sound odd to you, but I was wondering if you and your kind knew about Jesus Christ?"

"Jesus Christ?!" exclaimed the slightly taller of two aliens.

"Of course we do! He visits our planet every two years or so. Awesome fellow!"

A hush descended on the audience chamber, and everyone watched the Pope, whose face had turned a rather odd purple.

"Every two years?" he shouted. "We're still waiting for his second coming!"

"Maybe he didn't like your chocolate?" suggested the alien.

"Chocolate?" replied Pope Francis. "What in heaven's name does chocolate have to do with it?"

"Well," said the alien. "When he came to our planet, we gave him chocolate. Why, what did you do?"

So, the question for me and for you: Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist and sends his Spirit to be always with us – how do we welcome him?

Do we recognise him as the Holy One of God with a message that reaches into our hearts and changes and refreshes our lives every day or do we offer him sweet chocolatey words and carry on as if he had not visited at all?

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,

we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;

For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.
Amen.

A Parishioner



Prayers Please

Please pray for Fr. Giles Goward, former Parish priest of St Anne's who is unwell.

Please pray for Eugenie Micotti who has died.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who remains in hospital due to the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Noel Pearce, Sean Regan, Marie King, Dee Keogh, Jimmy Thompson, Lilian Tresham, Max Noothout, Derrick Palman, Richard Hoban, Jill Brown, Margaret Morey.