

Just Waiting!

Isaiah 44⁶⁻⁸; Psalm 86^{11-end}; Romans 8¹²⁻²⁵; Matthew 13^{24-30,36-43}

For in hope we were saved (Romans 8²⁴)

I am not very good at waiting. If I have an appointment with the dentist at 1000 and don't get called until 1015, I find it so frustrating. If I have a 'slot' at the Crematorium I get there on time and I know I have 30 minutes into which anything that needs to be said, sung or done has to fit: I pride myself on the fact that I have never kept another funeral waiting.

Today both Paul and Jesus speak about the need for waiting - waiting for God's time for things to happen.

- ✦ Jesus tells the parable of the weeds. He makes the point that you need patience before you try to separate what is bad from what is good - you would do more damage trying to sort things out as you separate the seedlings and it is when things mature that you know what is good from what is bad.
- ✦ It isn't the perspective of time that allows us to tell what is good from what is bad - it is the perspective of eternity, God's perspective - that is why he is best-placed to judge.

Permit me to have a bit of a moan. It is a great joy to me to know that people here enjoy meeting together, but we do need to take stock. HJV - Act as the Church you want to become!

There is an old adage that says: 'Before Mass, talk to God (review the week in preparation for confession; read the readings; etc). During Mass, let God talk to you. After Mass, talk to one another.' We need to do just that.

Particularly, the Peace seems to be getting out of hand. As Bishop Rowan reminded us, it is part of a service it isn't the purpose of it. The purpose of it is to ensure that we are at peace with one another as we prepare to receive bread and

wine. If you are at odds with someone else, by all means seek them out and make your peace so that you can both receive bread and wine. That said, as the congregation grows, it isn't possible to greet everyone.

I will try to greet you all at the beginning or the end of the service - but I will greet you all at the Peace as I introduce it. I am asking you now to greet only those immediately around you and for the bread and wine to come to the altar within a very few minutes. We all matter - but God matters more and we mustn't lose the momentum as we approach the most important bit of the service when we receive bread and wine!

After Mass talk to one another - and make a point of sharing what God has said to you as you have listened. There is plenty opportunity as we share coffee to catch up with everyone.

To get back to Scripture:

- ✦ Paul talks about **waiting in hope**: we hope for what God will give and we haven't got their yet. We are **heirs** who will inherit, but not when our Father is dead but when the world is dead.
- ✦ Paul says that **the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains** because it has been **subject to decay** but that hope will give birth to a new reality for **redemption**.

The key to waiting is how we occupy our time while we wait. The best advice is to go back to basics:

- ✦ Read your Bible (and not just the bits you like) and discover what God says - that feeds our faith.
- ✦ Pray - remember that trying to pray is praying! If you don't know what to say, try listening - that feeds our relationship with God.
- ✦ Live out your faith - love, compassion and integrity are the hallmarks of God's people - that lets both God and those around us know what matters to us.