



FAITH IN FOCUS: THE NITTY-GRITTY OF LOVE

When the teacher asked the class if they could name any of the seven deadly sins, Lucy put up her hand and answered, "Love, Miss". "Love?" asked the teacher. "Were you not paying attention?" "Well, that's usually the answer!" replied Lucy.

Lucy does have a point. We tend to boil everything down to love when it comes to living a Christian life. Yet while love is the answer, it is not always very clear how it works out in practice. Maybe that's why non-religious people laugh at Christians for being fixated with a woolly idea of love.

Many preachers get wobbly knees when they have to preach about the greatest commandments of loving God and neighbour, because they are so all-embracing that it's difficult to know how to break them down into practicalities. But we get a clue from our passage from Exodus today.

Throughout biblical history there are three categories of people who are the litmus test for whether our love is real or not. They are widows, orphans and foreigners (or strangers). Why these three types of people? If you think about it for a moment, these three groups have nothing going for them; they have no clout; they are all vulnerable. Widows had a low status in society because they had no "man" to speak up for them and protect them. Orphans were clearly vulnerable since they were young and unattached with no one to fight their cause. Foreigners were away from their natural surroundings and not culturally savvy, easy prey to those out to cheat them.

If we are to follow the great commandment of loving God and neighbour perhaps we can ask who the modern-day widows, orphans and foreigners are. Who are the people who have no clout in our society and how do we treat them? Who are the people who need our support because without it they would be vulnerable?

Anyone can love a friend. Anyone can love a "nice" person. Anyone can love their family. But the test of our love of God is how we react to those who can offer us no advantage in return. And just in case we think that these people are invisible, perhaps we need look no further than our own street, our own place of work and our own small circles



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH COLWYN BAY

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Sunday 3rd October 2010 27th Sunday of the Year

Prayer for the Parish

O God our Father and Creator

Where two or more are gathered together in your name you are there in their midst.

We bring to you our parish of St Joseph to ask your blessing as we meet the challenges of our mission of witness and discipleship.

Give us courage and enthusiasm.

Give us spirit of initiative and originality of thought.

Give us charity and unity and make us aware of each other as we work towards the renewal of our parish.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

St Joseph pray for us.

EXPOSITION, ROSARY AND QUIET PRAYER

Saturday 11-00am to 12-00noon

SATURDAY CONFESSIONS

11-00am to 11-30am

5-00pm to 5-30pm

SATURDAY MASS

5-30pm

SUNDAY MASSES

9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m.

Monday 12.00 noon Mass

Tuesday 12noon Mass

Wednesday and Thursday 9-30am Mass

Friday 12-00 noon Mass