

8 March 2015

From the Pastor's desk.....

In today's gospel there are wild scenes where Jesus, driven by righteous indignation, overturns the moneychanger's tables and decries the sacrilege of turning God's Temple into a market place. There is nothing wrong with commerce, but it is out of place in the Temple precincts. What seems to stir Jesus to the very bones is the seemingly indifference to the holy.

The Temple was not only a place of pilgrimage and sacrifice but the place of God's abiding presence. It was a place where heaven and earth touched. And the inner chamber of the Temple was described as the Holy of Holies.

In this gospel passage what Jesus seems to rail against most is forgetfulness. In the reading from the Book of Exodus God tells his people to remember, that he, and no other, was the One who delivered them from the yoke of the Pharaoh. Remembering this liberating event was to be the basis of their faith – a faith that was ratified in the law of the covenant, the Ten Commandments. Among these commandments is the injunction to “remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy”. Again, the emphasis is on remembering. When Jesus calls us into communion he asks us to do this in memory of him.

Yes, commerce and the everyday transactions of life are important and necessary. But everything has its time and place. In our own time the “market place” has become the dominant paradigm displacing the centrality of religious faith and practice. Materialism, consumerism and instant gratification have become the drugs of forgetfulness. Coming to Mass is meant to remind us of who we truly are. We are the body of Christ and our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. This is our dignity. This is what truly liberates us.

Peace and blessings,
Gerard