

Homily (notes) from Canon Philip Dyson
23rd October 2022 - 30th Sunday in OT also 179th Dedication in Penzance

Readings (Year C): 1st: Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19. Psalm: 33(34):2-3,17-19,23. 2nd: 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18. Gospel: Luke 18:9-14.

We come into our temple to pray today. An appropriate gospel reading as we keep the Dedication of our churches (Penzance 179 years - Hayle 64 years - St.Ives 114 years)

Our churches do mean so much to us. That shock when we were forced to close in March 2020 bore very deeply into our hearts.

Let us first give thanks that we have our places of worship: home where our God lives among his people.

Here where the light ever burns to show the closeness Jesus ever comes to us in His Blessed Sacrament, always present with us.

Here where 'in thine ear all trustfully, we tell our tale of misery; here; peace, ark from the oceans roar; within thy shelter blest.' Here we pour out our hearts; here we give thanks; here we celebrate the great moments of joy or sorrow as life goes on its way.

The parable of the two in the temple give us the fourth consecutive week of instruction by Jesus on prayer and the faith undergirding it. Pride gets in the way of true prayer, whereas humble contrition forms a prayer that goes straight to the heart of God.

Not for nothing does the Church put the order right when we come weekly to Mass. Following the opening greeting, we are invited to look into our hearts and acknowledge our sins. No room for pride.

One small detail in the story is very significant. We are told that one said the prayer to himself. His fine words seemed to be addressed to God, but in reality they didn't get beyond the clouds of his self-deception. Six times the word I occurs. Remember what Jesus does with I? He crosses it out.

In contrast, the other man's prayer pierced the clouds and went straight to the compassion of God. "God be merciful to me, a sinner." Our Lord have mercy: Kyrie eleison.

Jesus' conclusion is that humility is indispensable for all who wish to be at rights with God. Pope Francis, & following his namesake of Assisi, teaches that 'humility is the only way that leads us to God.

Without humility we are "cut off", we are cut off from understanding God and from understanding ourselves. Humility is needed to understand ourselves and each other, and all the more so to understand God.'

World Mission Sunday today reminds us that the Church is missionary by nature, striving to give witness to the Truth, who is Jesus Christ. We can come to our temples today because of our founders who brought the faith back to our places.

We are called to give witness to the new life that Jesus gives when we discover him present and active in the midst of our daily lives: new life that transcends death.

As Pope Francis says: this gift of faith is given to be shared. We cannot keep it to ourselves: 'We the Church, must constantly keep pressing forward, beyond our own confines, in order to testify to the love of God in Christ.'

Question posed by World Mission Sunday: "If you were on trial for being a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ, would the court find enough evident to convict you?"