

33RD SUNDAY

ORD TIME

YR A 2017

18 / 19

NOVEMBER

The Parish of St James

Coorparoo

An Augustinian Parish:

member of Brisbane East Deanery.



Moderator's Musings

Greetings and Peace in Christ.

We are just back from the renewal retreat program. All the Augustinian priests from Australia participated in the Program. It was a moment of prayer and renewal as well as sharing of our communion and friendship.

Fr. Brendan Byrne SJ, who was the key speaker at the renewal retreat, took us on a journey through the Gospels. Talking about the Kingdom of God as seen in the parables in the Gospels, Fr Brendan shared a story of a lady, (whose mother was a Catholic and Father was an Anglican), who didn't care about religion, God or spirituality. One day, she saw a church as she was walking through the city and thought of spending some time within. As she entered in and set her eyes upon the Crucifix, a deep sense of peace and love enfolded her, a rare experience which transformed her entire being. Fr Brendan was in the sacristy getting ready for the Mass and the lady hearing the sound in the sacristy, went there and found Fr Brendan and told him, I want to become a Catholic. A strange, sudden experience which totally transformed and lead her to Christ.

Kingdom of God is something that comes upon us suddenly and in the spark of a moment we find ourselves in its embrace. In the Gospel of Luke, when the Pharisees ask Jesus, 'When is Kingdom of God to come?,' Jesus answers them, 'The coming of the Kingdom of God does not admit of observation and there will be no one to say, "Look, it is here! Look, it is there!" For look, the Kingdom of God is among you.'

Dear brothers and sisters, as we walk the way of Christian faith, there is an experience of the Kingdom of God awaiting us. Maybe today or tomorrow, we will possess it. Let us seek it like the merchant searching the pearl of great value. There will be a 'today' of salvation for us too, as experienced by Shepherds at the birth of Jesus ("Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you") (LK 2:11), as experienced by Zacchaeus ("Today salvation has come to this house") (LK 19,9), as experienced by the Good Thief ("In truth I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.") (Lk 23,43) and as experienced by the lady in the story told by Fr Brendan.

"Set your hearts on his kingdom, and these other things will be given to you as well." (LK 12:31)

Peace and Joy

Fr. Jaison OSA.