



The Parish of Saints Anthony & Aloysius

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Homily at Mass 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B – 18 November 2018

The word “Apocalypse” means to uncover, to reveal: literally to draw back the curtain. Beginning today, and leading to the beginning of Advent, the Church draws back the curtain to reveal to us something of the mystery of the end of time, the end of the world, the day when Jesus will return. We speak of Christ’s return as the “Second Coming”. When he returns, Jesus will not be born as a human baby; rather he will come to our world as king: all of creation will fall before him, his light will be brighter than the sun, moon and stars. He will also come to our world as judge: on that day his faithful ones will follow their Lord and Shepherd into the eternal life and heaven.

We speak of Christ’s first coming – all that we celebrate at Christmas, all that we know about Our Lord’s life, ministry, teaching and miracles that we learn from the Gospel, and all that he did to save us and reconcile us to God; his sufferings, his cross, his death and burial, his glorious resurrection. It is more or less 2000 years since Our Lord’s Ascension – his return to the Father, the long era of the Church which is Christ’s living presence in the world. And while we wait for the day of Christ’s “Second Coming”, we try to live his Gospel, we seek each day to play our part fulfilling our daily prayer “Thy Kingdom come”. Thy Kingdom come, O Lord, in our family life. Thy Kingdom come, O Lord, in our daily work and our interactions with others. Thy Kingdom come, O Lord, in our lives – our daily conversion, our prayer, all our efforts to become more and more like Christ, better sons and daughters of God.

Thy Kingdom come, O Lord, as we come together as God’s family Sunday by Sunday. This weekend 13 young parishioners join us for the first time at the Altar, sharing in the sacrifice of Christ, receiving the Lord’s Body and Blood. Sunday is filled with the joy and radiance of the Risen Christ. Sunday is the day which the Lord has made. Sunday is the Easter Day which returns every 7 days. The Fathers of the Church often speak of Sunday as the 8th day. A day which seems to stand outside of time, a day which crowns all days, a day which gives meaning to all the days of our lives. Christians claim Sunday as their own day. Daily life has its burdens, we work hard, the days of the week seem to be given over to someone else as we work and earn a wage. But Sunday is the day God has made for the children whom he loves. Jesus says: “the Sabbath is made for man not man for the Sabbath”.

The joy of Sunday is captured in this hour we spend together. God gathers his family. God speaks to us as the word of God is proclaimed: we listen, we think, we reflect, we learn, we grow. God’s children find a place at his table, the Altar upon which we place our simple gifts of bread and wine. We remember the words of Jesus, as the priest proclaims the saving Gospel: “this is my body ... this is the chalice of my blood ... shed on the Cross for the forgiveness of sins... do this in memory of me”. Acting in Christ’s place, as Christ uses the priest’s lips and hands, his mind and body, bread and wine become Christ’s Body and Blood.

Christ re-presents his sacrifice: he joins us with his offering to the Father, and then he gives himself to us. To our children today for the first time, the first time in a lifetime. To all of us, Jesus offers an invitation none of us can ignore or refuse: “Come to me ...Come to me ...Come to me”.

Throughout all of the days of our lives, Sunday by Sunday, we come to the Church, we celebrate the Eucharist, we share in the Lord’s Body and Blood, the food and drink of eternal life. “We await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ”.