



The Parish of Saint Anthony Glen Huntly

74 Grange Road, Glen Huntly VIC 3163

☎ Telephone: (03) 9569 2099

✉ glenhuntlycaulfield@cam.org.au

www.cam.org.au/glenhuntlycaulfield

ABN: 70548 570 366

Homily at Mass Most Sunday, Year C – 16 June 2019

It's not often that a very important moral issue confronts us and demands that we think about it at Sunday Mass. And it's not often that the responsorial psalm for Mass forms from a key part of the Sunday homily. Let's listen to 2 or 3 verses of the psalm again:

*When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars which you arranged,
What is man that you should keep him in mind,
Mortal man that you care for him?
Yet you have made him little less than a god;
With glory and honour you crowned him,
Gave him power over the works of your hand,
Put all things under his feet*

We honour today the great mystery of God – God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In a sense we look back on all that we have celebrated since the liturgical year began last Advent: the promise of the Messiah, the birth of Jesus; our Lord's suffering and death on the Cross, his 'Yes' to our need for a Saviour to receive us and reconcile us to God; his glorious resurrection and the fulfilment of his promise, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. In all these ways God in his love reaches out to us, our world, the human family. The Trinity is God in himself – the unity of 3 persons, the Creator, the Redeemer, the Spirit who makes us holy. God who is in no way absent or distant, but God with us, God who saves us, God who calls us, God who loves us, God who is living and active in his world, in us, his holy people, his Church.

God the Father created the world; and the crown of all creation is us – men and women formed in the image and likeness of God. We reflect God in the wonder of our creation, our ability to procreate, our intelligence which allows us to think, reason, reflect, ponder, dream, plan, design, build. We are stewards of creation, and share in God's creative work. We rejoice that the Son of God has taken our flesh, lived our life, shared our death and conquered it. A Sunday or two ago we celebrated Our Lord's Ascension: in our flesh he now sits at the Father's right hand. This is our destiny and our hope.

Since the 1960's Western society has grappled with the sexual revolution. This has made all sorts of inroads in our culture, our way of thinking, our entertainment, family life and marriage, public morality, indeed the life of everyone. The Church has faced challenges in her moral teaching too. At the heart of all that the Church says about the moral life is the essential truth that every human life is valuable and unique in itself; every human person is irreplaceable; each of us is inherently good and beautiful, we are God's wonderful creation, we are God's beloved sons and daughters. An Australian once said, "God doesn't make junk".

We all know that life begins at the moment of conception: this is the incredible moment of creation in the life of each one of us. For us children, we are a blessing. For us every life is precious; each child must be welcomed at birth, cared for, loved, brought for Baptism, educated: Every new born baby is destined for Heaven.

Life is valuable: a handicapped person, someone who is sick or someone who struggles with mental health or learning difficulties or whatever else is no second class citizen. Deep within each one of us we lie immense resources of compassion. And in a country like Australia, our social and healthcare resources are only limited by our generosity and the ways we are prepared to set our priorities. When a family member or friend is sick or in hospital what comes first – my busy schedule or a generous love that doesn't count the cost?

Our Bishops write to us today about a very serious step all Victorians take as of Wednesday this week: on that day an Act of the Victorian Parliament to introduce euthanasia comes into force. Not only does Victoria have the most aggressive abortion laws in the world, we now take our place alongside countries like the Netherlands, Belgium and Canada where euthanasia has been law for many years. Our politicians assure us that there are many safeguards to protect the sick, the handicapped, the elderly. But experience overseas shows that the safeguards are soon set aside, and even children become candidates for so called “mercy killing” or “doctor assisted suicide” or “voluntary assisted dying”.

Let's take a few minutes to read the Bishops Letter now. And take a deep breath. Each of us now needs to become “conscientious objectors”. Each of us are now soldiers on the front line to defend the great cause of life.