



# The Parish of Saint Anthony Glen Huntly

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## Homily at Mass 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C – 22 September 2019

“The person who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great”. What are these “little things” that our Lord is referring to? Let’s think of some “little things” that make up our life each day.

One little thing would be our weekly Sunday Mass. Just one hour with God and God’s family. The Mass is made up of many little things – our song and prayer together, times of silence, our brief confession at the beginning of Mass, God’s blessing and our commission to love and serve the Lord at the end. But we are also involved in two great things – two great acts of worship – in this time we spend together in God’s House. The Word of God proclaimed, meditated on and the prayers of intercession that flow from it. And the Eucharist – Christ’s sacrifice offered at the altar, our great thanksgiving offered to God. This small gift of our time renews and refreshes us; it breathes a sweet perfume into all that this new week will bring.

What “small things” make up home and family life? Words can cut and hurt; they can also build up, help and encourage others. Little words that are the everyday courtesies – words like “please”, “thank you”, “may I”, “sorry”, “I love you”. Small things like little actions that reveal thoughtfulness and gratitude: a brief handwritten note, or these days a quick text or phone call. Small gifts like flowers or a favourite food. Perhaps recognition of someone’s tiredness or stress, or that little bit extra someone has done for us without asking. Small things at home include those little surprises that sometimes happen, especially when we see our children growing in different ways, things they’ve learnt at school, as well as steps in faith and maturity. I often suggest to our children that they could perhaps draw up 2 lists – things that mum and dad ask them to do, and those things that mum and dad do for them. Which would be the longer list?

Life is made up of all sorts of interactions with others – some of them major, most of them just little encounters, little opportunities for kindness and helpfulness. A smile on your face can make a difference. A word of encouragement, and thanks to a colleague or team member at work who has helped bring a project to a good conclusion. Sometimes we can detect that someone’s going through a “rough patch” or a bad day. One small thing we can do is ask are you ok? Is there something I can do to help, even just a listening ear? Coffee together at morning tea could be just a small acceptance of kindness, friendship, support. Sometimes it may be opportune to say “I’ll pray for you” or even “let’s pray together”.

Several years ago the UN sponsored the Year of the Volunteer. A report given to Federal Parliament showed that tens of thousands of Australians are involved in all sorts of volunteer activities, including sports clubs, church life, St Vincent de Paul, charity outreach and so much more. The report also discovered that most volunteer work in Australia – and around the world – is carried out by faithful practising Christians, people like you and me. Our faith is a call to arms a call to action.

St Paul offers practical advice and encouragement to all of us today. Talking about prayer he highlights the prayer of intercession he speaks of our one great Intercessor or Mediator Jesus Christ. At the end of today's second reading he says: "I want you to lift your hands up reverently in prayer".

Uplifted hands is the great posture or attitude of prayer. We see Christ's hands uplifted and extended in his prayer and offering on the Cross. The priest imitates this action in so many prayers, especially the Eucharistic Prayer during Mass. It seems so natural a gesture that small children will do it, as well as many adults. Prayer of intercession also seems to come easily to us – the prayer of petition asks for our needs; the prayer of intercession is a generous prayer for others. A prayer we can sometimes forget or overlook is the prayer of thanks to God for his blessing, his love, his favours given to us. The most beautiful prayer we are drawn into at Mass is the prayer of adoration – a prayer that focusses on God, Almighty, Eternal, Majestic, our Creator, Lord and Father.