

REFLECTIONS: 26 June 2016

(Readings: Mark 10:13-16; Luke 13:10-13)

“Jesus and children”

Can I ask all the children to come forward? Are you looking forward to our picnic at the beach today?

Today I hope you listened to the Bible reading where Jesus said that He cares about all children. He said to the people not to push the children away because they belong to Him as well. Sometimes children think they are not important in Church or in Church life. But that is not true – to Jesus you are very important indeed...

Now I would like to ask all the mums with babies and wee ones to walk through the Church.

Now, I would like you all to stand and remain standing, if you are:

2 years old; 3 years old; 4 years old; 5 years old; 6 years old; 7 years old; 8 years old; 9 years old; 10 years old; 11 years old; 12 years old; 13 years old; 14 years old; 15 years old; 16 years old; 17 years old.....

So, all of you are important in the eyes of God. You all are called by God to live lives that are full of love, and forgiveness. Jesus said that you are all children of His kingdom. You belong to Him. So I would like you all to turn to each other and say: “I am the Church!” “You are the Church!” Now, link arms and say.....“We are the Church, together!”. Now, please sit down for a few minutes.

“Jesus and those who are older”

In our second reading, Jesus is helping an older woman who was really in bad shape. She suffered from a terrible illness called arthritis, which affects the bones and joints in your body and makes any movement very painful indeed. Nowadays, we know that it is not just older people that can get this! In Jesus’ day, they thought of it as an “old age” disease often being inflicted by an evil source. So, in the original text, it describes the woman as being “bent over” and, most probably, because of all the pain she suffered over 18 years, she must have aged quite a bit!

But Jesus helped her and healed her of her illness. She could walk and stand again without having pain in her joints and bones. Incredible!

Now, I would like the children to come and stand next to me, facing the congregation.

Can I ask all those who are between 20 and 30 to stand and please remain standing...now 30 to 40; 40 to 50; 50 to 60; 60 to 70; 70 to 80; 80 to 90 and can I ask all those above 90 to just sit and wave to us?

Now, children you know what: In the first reading Jesus showed us that He cares about you as children...in the second reading He helped someone that was not a child anymore, a grown-up like all of these people in the Church. So Jesus cares about children and adults – so, in total, He cares about each one of us. We belong to Him.

Whether we are old or young, whether we are fat or skinny, whether we have money or not – He cares about each one.

Now I would like everyone in the Church to say: “I am the Church”, then, to look at each other and say: “You are the Church” and then to join hands saying: “We are the Church together!”.

So, let us all remember that God has no favourites. He favours all that listen to him, read from His Bible, speak to Him and love, unconditionally, all people!

Amen