

Reflections of the day (26 March 2020)

The Golden calf and proof of God's love

We all look for proofs and evidences when it comes to be convinced of something beyond our daily experiences.

In the first reading we see how Aaron was pressurised by the people of Israel to make a golden calf to worship and giving the credit of their deliverance to that statue. They worshipped and offered sacrifices before it saying ***“Here is our God, “who brought us up from the land of Egypt!”***(Ex 32;4). Though Moses tried to plead before Yahweh on behalf of the people, God warned them with a promise ***‘I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.’*** (Ex 32;10).

As Moses continue to plead before God for His people reminding him of the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

However we see Moses expressing his anger before the people and made the people to pay for their apostasy *‘ He seized the calf they had made and burned it, grinding it into powder which he scattered on the water and he made the sons of Israel drink it*(Ex 32;20)

We may wonder why the Israel people behaved in such an unfaithful way. As humans they too demanded for more evidences from God. They want guarantee for future. They need an insured policy for tomorrow. They need welfare policies. They want a god of their choice and imagination. They easily forgot the slavery in the land of Egypt and the deliverance by God.

In the gospel we see how Jesus defends His Messianic claims. The Jews demanded proofs for Jesus’ Messianic claims, quoting *Deuteronomy 19:15* which requires two or three witnesses to substantiate a person’s claims. Hence, Jesus presents four witnesses who approved His Messianic and Divine claims: John the Baptist, his own miracles, his Heavenly Father, and the Sacred Scriptures of the Old Testament.

Life Messages:

1) Remember the past with gratitude. It is quite easy to forget the sorrows of the past. But we never forget the people who helped us to reach and become what we are today, who turned our sorrows to joy and who brought light in to our ego-centred, gloomy life. ***We need to still remember the days we prayed for the things we have now.***

2) Pleading for others: We all are caretakers of one another especially during this **CORONA PERIOD**. We need to pray and plead for others’ failures and unfaithfulness as well as ours before God.

3) Knowing God above evidences:

A) Read prayerfully the Bible with trust and ardent desire to grow in Faith.

B) Learn the teachings of the Church, starting with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the official documents of the Church;

C) Examine how much I reflect the light of Christ that brings light to the darkness in others.

Father Joseph

Happy to share an email received

An Obituary printed in the London *Times.....Absolutely Dead Brilliant!!**

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,

- by his parents, Truth and Trust,
- by his wife, Discretion,
- by his daughter, Responsibility,
- and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.



Let us Be **CORONA ANGELS**

And

BREAK THE CHAIN

No Medicine, no Vaccine...

And prevention and Prayers are the only ways.

So let us keep safe by **SOCIAL ISOLATION.**

Everyone's immunity is not as equal or as strong.

Let's protect the most vulnerable
especially the elderly and infant children.

Let us not be the carriers

but be **Corona Angels**

by respecting and protecting others.

Prevention is better than cure..

Stay safe..... and let us break the chain ..

N.B

We, at St Paul's and St Clare, remember you and keep you all in our prayers. Though we are not physically near, however our hearts reach out to you especially who need our support and care. Please don't hesitate to call the parish office if you need any support within the prescribed rules and guidelines given by the Government and the Church authorities. We are keeping everyone in our daily Mass offered every morning. Please let us know your intentions and spiritual needs.