

Homily

27 Sunday (B)

4 October 2015

Look at all the pictures on display in the church.

Now I don't think we have any budding Michaelangelos or David Hockneys but that is not the point. These pictures are by our children. This is the world as they see it.

Jesus says the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. The Kingdom of God does not belong to us cynical world-weary adults. The Kingdom of God belongs to children. Children see things that we can't see.

Do you remember the first time you saw the sea?
Do you remember the first time you saw a real mountain?
Do you remember the first time you fell in love?
Do you remember the excitement of Christmas?

Take a big old tree. It's so much more than just a tree It's been around for hundreds of years. Its roots stretch far into the ground. Its trunk soars towards the heavens. The branches give shade from the sun. In the autumn it seems to die. In the spring it comes back to life again.

"I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the Kingdom of God like a little child will never belong to it."

We need to have the eyes of children. We need to have the wonderment of children. We need to have the fundamental faith and trust of children.

Take that tree again. It's not just a tree. It's not just a nuisance that needs trimming or cutting down. It's not just an opportunity for commercial gain. It's a thing of beauty. It reminds us that we too have roots which need watering. It reminds us that we too can soar into heaven.

It's no wonder that Jesus dies for us on a tree, that Jesus stretches out his arms for us on the branches of a tree. Being with Jesus, sharing with Jesus restores our sight, restores our childhood, restores our wonderment.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death on a tree.

Share with Jesus in that tree. Die to a cynical, world-weary adulthood. Become a child of God. You were created to be, and enter the Kingdom *prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

Fr Michael