

And then, they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. You and I work ever so hard to create heaven on earth. We try to make our homes and our families places of love and security. We try to promote peace and justice in the world around us. We try to make this community, this building, a place of beauty and holiness. And on Friday we have our Archbishop here to bless our new organ and to affirm us in the great work we are doing

But Jesus reminds us in today's gospel that heaven is not so much something we create through our hard work and dedication, heaven is what God does, heaven is God's free gift to his children. **When** that gift is going to be given nobody knows...*neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, no-one but the Father.* Our joy, our happiness lies entirely in His hands.

Traditional religion is all about getting ready for heaven, getting ready for the Day of Judgement, priests and people standing *at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices* in the vain hope of taking away our sins and ensuring that our names will indeed be *found written* in the great Book of Life.

What Jesus offers is totally new and revolutionary. *"I tell you solemnly before this generation has passed away, all these things will have taken place."* Jesus' death and resurrection is the fulfilment of all God's promises. Jesus' death and resurrection is the Day of Judgement. Jesus' death and resurrection is God's gift of heaven, his presence with us for ever and ever. This is the *one single sacrifice for sin.....By virtue of that one sacrifice, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying.*

We still live with the constraints of time. We still await the time when all Jesus' enemies will have been made into a footstool for him, but more important than any of that is that heaven and eternity have already begun in Jesus. We already have access to God our loving Father. He has already shown us *the path of life, the fullness of joy in his presence.* In Jesus, we already stand at God's right hand, we already have heaven on earth.

Be here on Friday for the Blessing of the Organ – not just because of all the hard work and dedication that has gone into it, but, more importantly to express, in conjunction with our Archbishop, our joy in the gospel. *And then, they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.* We Christians can see that *Son of Man coming in the clouds* every day we celebrate the Eucharist, every time we pray, every time we love one another.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.