



SUNDAY 27 JUNE 2021

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

The Parishes of: Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

Thirteenth Sunday of the Year (B) Mark 5: 21-43

'We're not meant to be multi-taskers'. I've come across this statement more than once. It's likely to please and annoy in equal measure - be dismissed by busy and efficient individuals and be used to justify doing less by others.

Before the telephone and internet, communication and things generally took more time. Today's amazing technology we take for granted. We even get annoyed when we fail to get immediate access to people and information. We can be driven by the increasing drumbeat of life's expectations and the speed of email traffic.

The quality of our being truly present to one another measures real success better than the number of items crossed off lengthening to-do lists. Thankfully we save more time with technology, but hey, let's pause to question how we use the time saved.

Jesus was alert to the people around him. Clearly, he didn't miss much. Today's Gospel stories of the sickness, death and raising of Jairus' twelve year old daughter and the healing of the woman with distressing bleeding, both draw a heartfelt and immediate response from Jesus. Note he was immersed in working with a large crowd at the time.

Crowds are made up of individuals. His sensitivity to what's personal in the midst of group pressures seems a regular feature of Jesus' style and ministry. He acts straight away to the direct request to attend to a sick child. But don't miss how he picks up the subtle touch of the embarrassed woman of faith who shrinks from wanting to disclose her problem.

We can pray to gently ease the reluctance in people needing to seek help. Giving clear signals of acceptance may free them from understandable but self-imposed reticence. God-given relief may be the beginning of enough trust to open up further.

Jesus is direct and dismissive of the mourners who doubt the power of God. If we're tempted to have a soft spot for them, a reminder about the shattering power of the Resurrection should challenge our sluggish and limiting belief.

We can applaud the miracles here, but bigger things were happening to those present. They were 'overcome with astonishment'. Join them.



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ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP

Pope Francis with the mind of St Francis

When our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one. It follows that our indifference or cruelty towards fellow creatures of this world sooner or later affects the treatment we mete out to other human beings.

We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people. Every act of cruelty towards any creature is contrary to human dignity. We can hardly consider ourselves to be fully loving if we disregard any aspect of reality. Peace, justice and the preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated and treated individually.

Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth.

- *Laudato Si* para 92