



SUNDAY 4 JUNE 2023

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

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

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

Trinity Sunday (A) John 3:16-18

I was told off by an eight year old. In a question and answer session in a children's Mass I mentioned that Jesus told stories. "They're not stories, they're parables!" was the blunt correction. What a delight. It went down well.

Jesus did tell stories. Maybe they became parables when they continued to tell themselves in the minds of his hearers until the message grew and dawned. But the startling thing for us is that the storyteller becomes the story.

It's hard to craft stories as good as those Jesus told. He worked on them and presumably repeated them to different audiences. We love stories. Messages are best when wrapped in a story. Bald facts don't usually excite as much as having the fascinating detail, the description of how you got there, the characters involved and the ebb and flow of the narrative, the pros and cons that test, annoy and amaze. Even better if there's a punchline you couldn't have seen coming, a meaning sneaking or roaring somewhere out of the left flank.

We all tell stories. What happened to you yesterday? You'll give me the sequence of events. The day unfolded and your version of it is part of the script of your life. We can hone and exaggerate facts to get across not just what happened but to describe how important or significant it was to us and continues to be.

Jesus' own story? You couldn't make it up or find an adequate parallel. You might rehearse a scenario of a leader inspiring great selfless workers who spend themselves in their given mission. But they can't substitute for the leader coming and doing the job himself in his own way. When the leader in question is God, the workers are the prophets and some standout individuals, you can see the inner clockwork of the story - but Jesus puts it so much better and we've just heard it ..."God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son..."

It's beautiful, gut-wrenching (would you give your only son?) and it's consequences never end. It's the story of God. God initiates, drives the story from the inside. Sit down and hear Jesus tell it to you, as he told it to Nicodemus. See the look on his face, his simple gestures, hear his tone of voice. We're part of the story. God pursued us right down into the flesh and became one of us. - it's brilliant! You'll want to tell others.



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ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP

Pope Francis: Climate Change and the poor

Many of those who possess more resources and economic or political power seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problems or concealing their symptoms, simply making efforts to reduce some of the negative impacts of climate change.

However, many of these symptoms indicate that such effects will continue to worsen if we continue with current models of production and consumption. There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, replacing fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy. Worldwide there is minimal access to clean and renewable energy. There is still a need to develop adequate storage technologies.

Some countries have made considerable progress, although it is far from constituting a significant proportion. Investments have also been made in means of production and transportation which consume less energy and require fewer raw materials, as well as in methods of construction and renovating buildings which improve their energy efficiency. But these good practices are still far from widespread.

- *Laudato Si para 25*