



## 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Dear friends,

This Sunday's from St Matthew (Mt 18:15-20), our duty to correct our brother or sister when they have done something wrong. Jesus says, 'If your brother or sister does something wrong, go and have it out with them.' We all have a responsibility to care for our neighbour, and, like Jesus it means speaking the truth to someone when they have done something wrong. Of course the person may not see the error of what they have done, and they may not appreciate it if tell them so. But, so long as the correction is done out of love and concern, rather than out of a sense of resentment and anger, then we are well on the way to allowing our faith in Jesus, who called us to love our neighbour, to come to maturity.

In the second reading this Sunday from St Paul's letter to the Romans (Rom 13:8-10) he says of our Christian faith: 'avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your neighbour, you have carried out your obligation.' Love of neighbour, wanting to see the good in others should always be our motivation toward others. Not an easy thing to do? You would be right!

No matter how hard we try, we will never find ourselves in perfect harmony with others. If, we stand for anything, try to accomplish something, if we long to make some changes, we are going to offend some people. Sometimes it is because of this that the actions of others can threaten our worth and our freedom.

Jesus' words knew that his disciples would not always see eye to eye. In fact, the famous scene where the brothers James and John wanted seats at Jesus' right hand in His Kingdom was seen by the other disciples with resentment and jealousy. Jesus diffuses the situation by saying that we must all become

**childlike, whereby we seek the good in all things, rather than our own self-promotion.**

**We are all human and sometimes when we feel offended by what someone has done or how they have behaved. But grudges and resentments can be like closing a wound with all the infection inside. No healing can ever take place. The wound has to be lanced and opened and cleaned before it can heal.**

**As a Christian family, whether that be our own family at home, our parish or school community, we are called to love at times by confronting division and discord where it harms others or divides the harmony that exists 'through the debt of mutual love.'**

**The late Pope St. John XXIII once said: 'see all, correct little, forgive everything.' Jesus calls us as a community to feel His healing presence when we attend Sunday Mass, and we acknowledge our sins, or where we experience his love for us when celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we can feel the immense love of God freeing our hearts to begin again by walking in the footsteps of Jesus.**

**May the Lord continue to bless us all, especially our fathers on this Father's Day 2020. Their love for us, is one that always seeks to support us in our troubles, and help us to have the courage to make our world a better place for all. Let us ask our Father in Heaven to always be reconciled with one another, as St Paul says: 'in the debt of mutual love.'**

**[Fr Kelvin](#)**