

## Reflection— Something's Missing .....

Many (most?) followers of Jesus, despite believing and loving God, still have this gnawing sense that something is missing. And how you choose to address and interact with that reality will have a HUGE impact on your overall spiritual vitality.

When you love Jesus but feel something's missing, how do you approach it? Your approach has a direct impact on how you interpret the reality, and how you interpret the reality has a direct influence on your posture as you move forward.

There is a parable from Jesus that has completely transformed my understanding of the phenomenon of 'something's missing', and within it lies the clues to properly interpreting and responding to this reality. It's the passage of Scripture I bring every person to when they are grappling with the void they feel and are searching for a way to move forward in a transformational way:

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."*

This is the shortest parable that Jesus ever tells, and it's amazing that he is able to tell two separate, vivid, stories in the span of just three verses. Don't you wish I could always learn to be this brief and pointed?

This parable has come to mean so much to me. I lived for too long with the incorrect assumption that the reality of 'something's missing' must mean something is wrong with me and my faith. I'm now convinced now that it is just the opposite. Hunger should be embraced and nurtured.

When I experience glimpses of the beauty and love of God, I want that provoke a hunger within me to pursue more of the beauty and love of God. When I experience glimpses of the fullness of life within Christ, I want that to provoke a hunger within me to pursue even more of the fullness of life within Christ.

Through this parable I have learned that being hungry for God or dissatisfied with the status quo is not a mark of something being wrong with my spiritual condition. It's just the opposite - those hunger pangs are signs of life! The hunger for more comes directly from the heart of God. The desire to experience the fullness of God is a desire that God smiles upon. God wants us to be in touch with those hunger pangs, and God wants us to follow that thread all the way back to the heart of God.

God has placed an unquenchable thirst inside of us designed to propel us on a search for the pearl of great price. The more of God we experience the more we should want. The more we are aware of the pain associated with something's missing, the stronger the desire becomes to find the answer. The stronger the desire becomes, the more intensely we pursue God. The more intensely we pursue God, the more of God's fullness we end up discovering and experiencing. The more of God's fullness that we discover and experience, the more transformed we become. The more transformed we become, the more we realize that something's still missing!



## ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Owen Street, Atherstone

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THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 25th July 2020

Vigil Mass 4 pm

Sunday 26th July Mass

at 9.30am



Saturday	25th	<b>The 16TH</b>	Vigil Mass 4 pm	Parishioners
Sunday	26th	<b>of Ordinary Time</b>	Mass 9.30 am	That we are Christ like
Monday	27th	Feria	NO MASS	
Tuesday	28th	Feria	Mass 10 am	The elderly in our parish
Wednesday	29th	Feria,	Mass 10 am	Children who are abused
Thursday	30th	Feria	Mass 10 am	Peace in the world
Friday	31st	Feria, Ap.	Mass 10 am	Those research a vaccine for Covid-19
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1st Aug</b>	<b>THE 17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>Vigil Mass 4 pm</b>	<b>Parishioners</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>Mass 9.30 am</b>	<b>All those in Education that they be refreshed</b>	

Next Week : THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 1st August 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm

and Sunday 2nd August Mass at 9.30am



Archdiocese of Birmingham is a Registered Charity 234216

THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC MASSES THIS WEEKEND. WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THIS POINT. PLEASE :-

1. SANITISE YOUR HANDS WHEN ARRIVING AND LEAVING CHURCH.
2. WEAR FACE COVERING AT ALL TIMES.
3. ONLY SIT ON PEWS WHERE DIRECTED TO.
4. MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALL TIMES. (NO PHYSICAL CONTACT AT EXCHANGE OF PEACE).
5. WHEN RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION, DO SO ON HAND ONLY AND MOVE WHEN DIRECTED TO.
6. THERE ARE NO NEWS SHEETS HANDED OUT, NO HYMN BOOKS TO HOLD, NO SINGING BECAUSE OF SPREAD OF VIRUS.
7. LEAVE CHURCH AFTER MASS WHEN DIRECTED BY STEWARDS.

**COVID 19 VIRUS IS STILL PREVALENT SO KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM EACH OTHER. TOUCH AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.**

**IF YOU ARE GOING TO COME TO MASS THIS WEEKEND YOU NEED TO INFORM FR. PAUL BY TELEPHONE -07973239942 OR E MAIL**

**Fr.paul.lomas@rcaob.org.uk which mass you are coming to as we can only safely contain 30 people in the congregation.**

**Mass each day continues to be shown live on my Facebook page—Paul Roy Lomas. It is also available to use after the Mass has ended in case you can't be on your computer, smart phone or lap-top at the exact time.**

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a

Please don't forget to hand in your Mass requests in an envelope with the name and date on and with your donation inside. Fr. Paul has no outstanding Masses.

**MESSAGE FROM PARISHIONER—Hi, I just wanted to say that I and my 78 year old dad went to Mass on Saturday night, I can say it was completely safe, well sanitised, social distanced and all fourteen of us were wearing masks, the doors were wide open and dad parked just outside the church. We all have to make our own decisions on when we venture out, but it was lovely to be with some of my church family. Its is much safer at church than generally out and about shopping, if I was recommending a first venture out then church would be good. Good for your mental health and your soul. God bless you all.”**

**SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH DURING THE PANDEMIC**

The work of the parish goes on and needs financing. We still need your support, even more so as without our weekly congregations and visitors, finances are tighter. Recognising that many parishioners may be struggling financially, there is no expectation to give where you are unable to do so. However if you can, it would be much appreciated. Either cash or a cheque handed IN AT Mass or through the presbytery door. You can donate via standing order or a single donation if easier. We are grateful to those who pay by standing order already. Thank you for your support. With only 30-35 coming to mass at weekends we are missing the cash that we receive each week. Soon we will be having work done on the church roof above sanctuary, also the French drain around the perimeter of the church. Also, the rented property needs urgent repair work too. We have to fund this work from the parish.

**COVID-19 JUST OUTSIDE OF Chintowa in Malawi.**

There have been seven deaths and an emergency action plan has been put into place. The charity is working closely with the Health department in Lilongwe. The village is in lockdown, the government health workers who have been assigned to the town are using the charity's support. Face masks have been given to villagers. They are allowed to go shopping, which is three miles away twice a week. Soap and sanitizer buckets are placed at each of the bore holes. Please keep the village and the workers in your prayers. THERE IS A DESPERATE NEED FOR HAND SOAP TABLETS SO IF YOU BRING THEM TO CHURCH AND PLACE IN BOX IN PORCH WE WILL MAKE SURE THEY ARE SENT TO MALAWI. Your practical support and prayerful encouragement is much needed. Thank You Fr. Paul