

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A



Today's second reading tells us:

“Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.”

In these days of Covid-19, we have had to adapt our behaviour in so many ways. Social distancing, shielding, wearing face coverings, using hand sanitiser.... the list goes on.



But for many people, the pandemic has brought about other changes in behaviour. People in the NHS, carers, shop workers, school staff, cleaners and others stepped up, at the height of the pandemic, to care for others. Acts of kindness were shown across our country. These behaviours are what God is asking of us.

Unfortunately, at the same time, we have behaviours in our world which we would not want to model: violence, misuse of power, lies, lack of leadership, racism, lack of social distancing in public places, to name but a few.

The key in the second reading is that our behaviours should be modelled by our new mind. This new mind comes about when we take our broken world to God in prayer and ask that the Spirit gives us a heart and mind able to respond to the needs of our world in love and compassion. The behaviours that are good will flow from this new mind and heart.



This week we will see children coming back to our schools. Most will be delighted to see their friends again and return to regular routines. Some, however, will be scared because they have missed so much work or they are concerned about catching Coronavirus. Schools will look different with all desks facing the teacher and a 2m distance between children and adults. Schools will not be able to have Eucharistic liturgies. Students may be asked to wear masks at different times. Schools will have to stagger when students come into school and when they leave school. Student behaviours will have to change as schools implement procedures to keep staff and children as safe as they can. We can help children by being positive about them going back to school, encouraging them to work hard and ensuring that their behaviour supports others.



As we continue on our faith journey this week, let us remember our young people and the staff in our schools and ask our good God to give them courage in the unfamiliar world in which they now find themselves. May they, and each one of us in the Dockhead community, allow our behaviours to be based on love which always allows us to open our hearts to others. So keep loving, keep caring and keep holding each other in prayer as the God of love and strength, in whom we believe, helps us and holds us by the hand.

