

As we approach the end of the Church's Liturgical Year, our readings start to give us a glimpse into the Kingdom of God, although not always in the way we would expect it.



Our first reading says,

"A perfect wife - who can find her?"

Well, I am not a wife and I am certainly not perfect. So what is this reading trying to say in terms of the Kingdom of God? I believe that the answer lies further in the reading.

"She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. The woman who is wise is the one to praise."

The Kingdom of God is where the wisdom that we spoke about last week will shine through. It is also where justice and peace will prevail. "Perfect" Christians should hold out their hands to the poor and their arms to the needy. As children of light and of the day, as it says in our second reading, we are ready for the Day of the Lord, the coming of the Kingdom of God. Yet this Kingdom is already within us and we need to acknowledge it.

The Kingdom of God is
already in our midst like a
hidden seed. Anyone with
pure eyes can see it
blossom.

Pope Francis

Jesus tells another parable about the Kingdom of God in today's Gospel. One of the messages we can take from this parable is that whatever gifts have been given to us by God, we should not hide them, but we should use them to bring about the Reign of God. Then we will hear God say:

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

Pope at daily Mass: The Kingdom of God is within us



Pope Francis concluded his homily by asking the Holy Spirit for the grace to make "make the seed of the Kingdom of God" grow in us and in the Church, with strength, "so that it might become large, give refuge to many people, and give the fruits of sanctity.

The Kingdom of God, then, always grows in hiding, the Pope said, because it is there, in our midst, that the Holy Spirit "makes it sprout, until it bears fruit.

And the Holy Spirit is the spirit of meekness, the spirit of humility, He is the spirit of obedience, the spirit of simplicity.

Pope Francis urges us all to allow the seed of the Kingdom of God to grow in us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we might be witnesses of God's love to others.



During this second lockdown, when we are once again being denied the joy of being physically present at Mass and receiving Eucharist, may we use the time to allow the Kingdom of God to blossom in our hearts so that we become good and faithful friends of God. As our Communion antiphon today says:

"To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord."

Let this be our guide for the coming week as we continue to ask the Lord to bless us all and keep us safe. We pray especially for Canon Alan, and ask the Lord to put his healing hands on him and give him strength and peace.