

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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Give Something Yourselfes

The challenge is the same today as it was when Jesus put it to His disciples as recounted in this weekend's gospel. The disciples were frightened when they saw a mini food shortage coming and in their fear they selfishly took immediate steps to retain their own resources for themselves. For their protection, they asked Jesus to send the crowds away, telling them to provide for themselves. Jesus immediately rebuked the disciples, instructing them to give the crowds something to eat themselves.

The inclination to self-protection is as strong among us today as it ever was. The call of Jesus to make the care of the neighbour as much a priority as the care of ourselves is as challenging today as it ever was, if not even more so. Maybe, this call is a step too far and is beyond us! Not so, when we allow the spirit of Jesus to inspire us to love as He loves.

Fear of the unknown often evokes an insidious anxiety to drive us to accumulate savings and resources for an unpredictable future rather than risking generosity towards the pressing needs of our poorer brothers and sisters worldwide today.

The antidote to such fear is constant gratitude. To be thankful to God for His daily gifts of life itself and the wonders of creation, is the pathway to long term security. The death knell of such fear is to experience and to share loving care and respect among us. Such a communal environment of mind and heart can soften the harshness of some aspects of life today. Giving leadership in nurturing little cells of such goodness, brings its own reward.

Jesus is with us as we listen to His call;

GIVE THEM SOMETHING YOURSELVES

Fr. Tom Clancy

