



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

2nd Sunday of Easter-Year B-April 11th 2021

Readings: Acts 4: 32-35, Psalm 117, 1 John 5: 1-6, John 20: 19-31

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. The feast established by St John Paul II and the day on which the Lord chose to take His great servant home and, appropriately the day on which the Church chose to beatify and canonise him.

Today's lection includes the reading we have just heard from the Letter of St. John. It is astounding in its claim. John tells us that, as believers in Christ, we are begotten by God. That is to say that we are, with Christ Our Lord, His children, little brothers and sisters of Jesus. We are family.

As such you would rightly expect that the Christian Church puts enormous emphasis on the family – no-one more so than St. John Paul himself. And, as you might correctly surmise, it is consequently the object of the constant enmity of the forces of evil.

In our lifetime we have witnessed the marginalisation of fatherhood or worse, its absence. We have seen the vocation of motherhood and apple pie ridiculed to the point where even the apple pie is controversial. We have watched as, formerly Christian countries, have wholesale adopted the materialistic approach of the atheistic states to the fundamental humanity and personhood of the unborn.

We have lurched, at Gadarene speed, from toleration of the disordered

sexual practices into their public glorification.

We are enshrining in legislation dangerous confusion in the recognition of identity, deeming it to be transient and mutable with the desire for self-mutilation as a sign of self-fulfilment rather than a symptom of mental distress. We have watched as marriage has been redefined against its original and eternal meaning.

We are now rapidly moving to a point where the very questioning of this burgeoning demonic tyranny will be deemed illegal and just cause for persecution. In America it has long been dubbed the 'Culture War'.

It is, of course, much worse than any war as the fatality rate in this war, in any one given year, exceeds the total American war losses of the entire twentieth century conflicts.

We are in the midst of a great retreat from reason and an increasingly rapid abandonment of the Faith and the civilisation which it has engendered and on which our liberty depends.

We are in the final throes of entering a new Dark Age.

As a civilisation we have forgotten who and what we are.

Small and fragile as we are, we are the solitary reminders of the ultimate truth about Man, his true vocation and his intended destiny.

The role of the Church in such times is to remain faithful and continue to teach and preach and maintain the Tradition – the sacred truth we are commissioned to pass on. We do this, not out of a perverse desire to be awkward and deny the ever-changing whims of the self-appointed masters of social and personal disorder, but because we love mankind, because we do not want to see it deceived and tortured and broken by the forces of the dark. We are in the business of salvation – the work of Jesus and Him crucified.

We are not ministering to a community of nations that is at ease with itself. The 'happiness' ratio is in terrible decline. The motivating philosophies of deconstructionism and intersectionality depend on the

growing discontent and disconnected and carefully stoked anger of disparate groups to forward their aims of destruction and revolution to a materialist society. They are rapidly gaining ground.

The response to the pandemic of most democratic governments was perverse. Collapsing the economies in the laudable intention of saving those of us who have already enjoyed our Biblical allotment of years on this earth, emergency measures were then rushed through to ensure that the youngest would perish at an even greater rate. Do-it-yourself abortion was mandated.

Across the pond our American friends, in desperation, elected a Catholic President – a time you might have thought for great rejoicing. Not least because he has the head of the House also a Catholic and has appointed as Health boss, a man who boasts that his mum and his auntie pray the rosary for him each night. The tragedy for America and for the Catholic Church is that these are cultural Catholics only. The teachings of the Church do not impede their cankerous politics. Each is wholly wedded to massive abortion and its export. Each is committed to the oxymoron of same sex marriage (The President has even performed one). Each of them is fully behind the chaos unleashed on young people by the transgender lobby and its claim to multiple genders and the transience of personal identity. In this they are hugely supported by the great corporations and media lords who cut off the channels of protest from their mass propaganda outlets of social media. The once leaders of the free world are now leading us into tragedy, the devil's final joke is that we are being led there by counterfeit Catholics.

What can we do, we who love the world that Jesus died for, we who long for its salvation, we who want the true fulfilment and joy of man?

We have to redouble our prayers.

We have to take every opportunity given to us to speak in love of the real

destiny of Man.

We have to write to our politicians and media, correcting the false doctrines – with courtesy and with charity but firmly and unapologetically.

We have to warn of the consequences of apostasy – not least because the consequences will fall, not on our generation of comfortable geriatrics, but upon our beloved children and grandchildren who do not deserve to inherit the squalid mess we have left them.

We have to be prepared to suffer. A lifetime of economic comfort has ill prepared us to stand with Christ in the Praetorium and receive the brutal lash of the authorities. A lifetime of devotion has left us shocked to find that, like Jesus, our very betrayers and persecutors once walked with us. The triumph of the early part of our lives, the victory over the satanic hordes of World War II and their evil philosophies, has made us complacent in the face of resurgent darkness and fearful of the walk with Christ on the Via Dolorosa.

What we know for sure – and this glorious season proclaims – is that the road to the Risen Life leads through the Calvary – not round it. We are proclaiming the victory that has been achieved and will come. That is the Faith. Heirs of the broken family of Man, we have become the Children of God.

As St. John reminds us:

‘By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commands. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?’

Fear not and be faithful.

