

New Brighton, Sunday 25th June 2023

4th Sunday after Pentecost

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

Who should we fear, if the Lord remains with us? No one, except the devil who could take out the spiritual life living in us since we receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

This 4th Sunday after Pentecost continues our initiation about the way to salvation. Since Christ has gone to Heaven to make ready the place He already reserved for us, the Church, following the holy mission She received from Our Lord, makes her best to teach us this way.

The several excerpts of the Holy Scriptures that the Liturgy uses this morning are leading our meditation and warn us about the danger to step away from the path of salvation. The Lord will always and surely guide us, let's follow him with confidence. We already know that victory was granted to Christ, and that we can and will have a share. Why should we worry? We simply ought to receive and follow his leadership, putting to actions the words of the collect we read a few minutes ago:

“that the course of the world may be directed according to Your rule in peace.”¹

It's a excellent thing to have guidance. But this guidance is to be properly received and followed if we would like to see the result and good fruit. St Therese of the Child Jesus said to a missionary priest the following, which could apply to our understanding of God's ruling over us:

“Since it has been given to me too, to understand the love of the Heart of Jesus, I own that it has chased all fear from mine! The remembrance of my faults humiliates me, and urges me never to depend upon my own strength which is nothing but weakness: still more does this remembrance speak to me of mercy and of love. When, with all filial confidence we cast our faults into the devouring furnace of love, how should they not be totally consumed?”²

God's Providence prevents and support us across all dangers, which are nothing compared to the glory to come.³ The virtue of Hope, free gift of the Grace of the Lord is helping us to see that despite all miseries, the glory of God can be extended with the constant offering of ourselves.

“Our faith confirms our possession of these divine pledges; and regenerate human nature, even amidst all the trials of this life, is consoled at the very thought of the noble destiny to which it is called. Satan may use his fiercest efforts to regain his lost ground; and the soul may have many and frequent battles to fight for the holding what was once under the dominion of the enemy; but Christian hope is an armour of heaven's own making. Hope entereth in even within the veil; and then she comes telling the combatant about the disproportion, here mentioned by the Apostle, between the fatigues of the march

¹ 4th Sunday after Pentecost, Collect.

² St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Letter to a missionary brother.

³ Rm., VIII, 18.

here below, and the bliss which is to reward our fidelity in the happy land above.”⁴

The Gospel offers us the event of the miraculous catch, which is comforting our spiritual life: we can't do anything without Jesus, but with Him, we see that He provides everything for our prayer to become fruitful. Following this revelation, we beg the Lord in the Offertory Antiphon to

“Give light to my eyes that I may never sleep in death, lest my enemy say, I have overcome him.”⁵

“The church is aware of the light she needs. Therefore, she asks God for it, so that, guided by His Providence towards the fishy shoals, she can cast her net, avoid the pitfalls, stand firm against the strong and contrary winds and, always alert, all in the clarity and strength of Christ, hold back the enemy and prevent him from prevailing.”⁶

God promised us His grace. He provides it through the main channel of the Sacraments. Let's not waste anymore any opportunity to benefit from the numerous treasures the Lord desires to share with us. Come again in humility to the tribunal of confession to make your soul perfectly clean, to be able to approach the Holy Banquet of the Eucharist. This heavenly food will unite you more and more to His divine and Sacred Heart, enhancing all virtues in you, increasing your love for Him, to be consumed with the eternal fire of His Charity.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

⁴ Dom Guéranger, Liturgical Year, 4th Sunday after Pentecost.

⁵ Ps., XII, 4-5. Offertory.

⁶ Dom Ludovic Baron, L'expression du Chant Grégorien, 4th Sunday after Pentecost. Translated with www.deepl.com.