



MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

Albury-Fairlie-Tekapo-Twizel

Communion / Participation / Mission



ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

15th & 16th June 2024

The Kingdom of God According to Jesus

The Kingdom of God is not the result of our human making or finding, but a supernatural reality revealed to us with love by Jesus himself. He uses the two parables of the Sower and the Mustard Seed to illustrate that the glory of the Kingdom of God is present in each person, in the community of believers, and in the final banquet as a harvest (Mk 4:26-34).

Those who believe in God have already experienced an irresistible and undeniable foretaste of the glory of God within themselves. It is their inner peace and tranquillity, their joy and love that each believer regularly experiences. They are convinced that they cannot live without God and desire that everyone else should have the same loving experience. These believers also know that they have been the land in which the word of God has been sown. Just as the land is barren without seeds, so they believe that their lives will be barren without God. Day by day, they long to grow more deeply into the heavenly sweetness of God's love. They have already believed, lived, and testified that it is the Holy Spirit who has made them produce His fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, meekness, generosity, and more.

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430) regretfully cried out at the end of his life: *"Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness, I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you, they would not have been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath, and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace"* (Confessions, Book 10, Chapter 27). Here, the Kingdom of God is personally experienced, yet not private.

In 1971, Pope Paul VI emphasized the need for a society built on love and justice, where the dignity of every human being is respected and protected. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he coined the term "a civilization of love," calling for a transformation of societal structures to reflect the principles of the Gospel, promoting a culture where love, compassion, and mutual respect are the foundation of all human relationships and institutions. Thus, the Kingdom of God is also experienced mutually by the community of believers in Christ who live and cherish the values taught by Christ Himself.

Finally, the fullness of God's Kingdom will come as the final banquet of love and union in heaven. The parables in the Gospel of Mark demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is secretly present in our lives and society, and whether we are aware of it or not, His power is at work in those who believe. Believing in God is to equally believe in the Word – *the Logos*, through whom God created all things out of love.

Fr. Tien Cao

Parish Contacts

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Parish Priest:

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PARISH MASS TIMES

FAIRLIE - ST. PATRICK'S

Sunday 9:30 am

Tue – Fri

Adoration: 8:00 – 9:00 am

Mass: 9:15 am

Reconciliation every day during adoration

TWIZEL – All Saints'

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

TEKAPO - Good Shepherd Church

Last Sunday of the Month:

June 30, at 6:00 pm

Parish Council

Tony Hill – 027 331 7861

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