

Homily - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19th January 2020

Violence can take many different forms - impulsive words broadcast on Twitter; a Cruise missile hurled half way across the world; an abusive parent, abusive teacher, abusive priest; a bully in the playground. And then there is the violence administered with a smile or even a prayer; or that committee meeting where someone is trying to dominate and control; or the so called friend who refuses to listen and can only talk about himself.

'Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.'

How do we deal with this violence? How can we make our world a more peaceful place? Hindu versus Moslem, Catholic versus Protestant, Shia versus Sunni, Traditionalists versus Liberals; so many Christians in St Austell - Anglicans and Baptists, Light & Life and South Coast, Methodists and Roman Catholics, and many others, so often pulling in different directions.

'Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.'

So much mistrust and disunity - how am I to deal with it? What does it mean to be a Catholic Christian? How are we to take our place among all the saints? How are we 'to bring back Jacob' or be 'the light of the nations'?

"Look, there is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." Only Jesus, only the Suffering Servant, only the Crucified One can and will bring peace and unity to our world and our Church.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit is not just the Sacrament of Confirmation, speaking in tongues, or waving our arms in the air. Baptism with the Holy Spirit is to share in the work of Jesus, to share in the work of peace building, to share in the work of dialogue and unity, to share in the peace and unity that Jesus has already established.

'Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.'