

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, MUMBLES
Reflection for
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 5, 2020
(May be used for Home Prayer Service)
Dominican Friars, Swansea

This reflection may be used during the home prayer service. Please see the home prayer service sheet for details.

THE DIVINE REVELATION IS OUR PEACE

Our Lord Jesus thanks the Father for revealing himself to the simple hearted. This divine revelation is the most glorious knowledge of God because it brings us peace, joy, and life. We have come to have this knowledge through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He has made the Father known to us in all his fullness (cf. Col 2:9).

The Divine Revelation: In the fullness of his goodness and love, God chose to reveal himself by making known to us all his marvellous works (cf. Eph 1:9). Through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14), God has invited us to share in his divine life through the working of the Holy Spirit (see Eph. 2:18; 2 Peter 1:4). We have come to know God in his magnificent work of creation (Ps 8; Jn 1:3). God has also revealed himself to us through laws and prophets in the Old Testament (cf. Heb 1:1). God has also revealed himself to us in the Sacred Scriptures which have been committed to writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (*Dei Verbum*, Vatican II, n. 11). But the fullness of God's revelation has been given to us through Jesus Christ (cf. Jn 1:18). Jesus himself declared, "No one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son and to whom the Son chooses to reveal him" (Mt 11:27).

Who has the Son Chosen to Reveal the Father to? Jesus has revealed the mysteries of God to the simple hearted while this has been hidden from the learned and the wise. Similarly, St Paul writes that divine knowledge is not acquired by human eloquence and intelligence but by the belief in the Cross of Christ through which God has shamed the wisdom of the wise and learned (cf. 1 Cor 1:18-20).

Jesus teaches that God has chosen to reveal himself to children. Children are those who depend on their guardians for livelihood. The idea of dependence could be understood as poverty. Poverty itself could be viewed from three perspectives. The first is material poverty in which people lack the basic necessities of life. This set of people depends on God for their daily

bread through the charity of others (Ps 145:15; Jam 1:27). When they accept their poverty as a means of sharing in Christ's poverty, God reveals himself to them.

The second sense of poverty is the evangelical poverty. This is the vow that is professed by religious men and women. By professing this vow, they promise not to own anything in imitation of Christ who though was rich made himself poor to make us rich through his poverty (cf. 2 Cor 8:9). By faithfully living out this form of poverty, religious men and women challenge the world's crave for material dominance and prosperity. The third sense is poverty in spirit. These are the people who are blessed with material prosperity but are detached from it. They do not place their trust in wealth (cf. Pro 11:28; Ps 20:7). These are the people who are committed to the cause of the poor. They see and serve Christ in the poor and needy. Jesus promises that the kingdom of God belongs to such (Mt 5:3). Through such people, God reveals himself to the world.

We Learn from Jesus: Jesus who became humble for our salvation is the perfect model of all these forms of poverty (CCC 520). The First Reading (Zech 9:9-10) describes Jesus, the Messiah, who is poor and humble. He rides on a donkey to signify that he comes in peace among us. He does not ride a donkey which is symbol of war and dominance. As the Prince of Peace, Jesus did not promise to take away our burdens. He rather assures us that he will give us the means of carrying them. Jesus himself carried his cross to the end. We also can bear our burdens of life to glory. Like the poor and needy, we believe that only God can support us when we are weighed down by the burdens we bear and the sorrow we share. God is not far from us for in him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). To find rest in God is to know God as our Father who loves us as his children. He is the Father who carries our burdens with us. Not a grief or a loss; not a frown or a cross but is blessed if we trust and obey our Father. Amen.