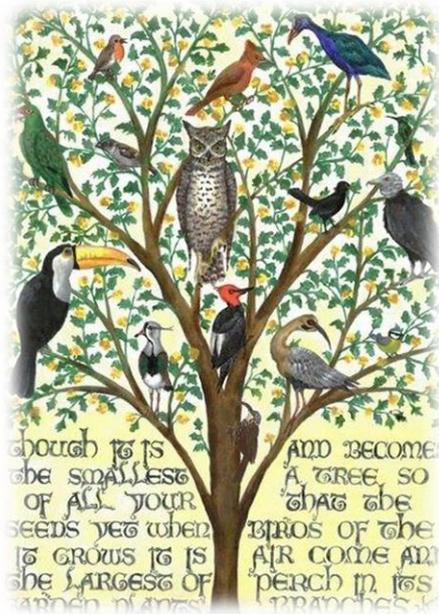


Reflections for Sunday 13 June 2021



Gospel – Mark 4:26-34

²⁶ Jesus said to the crowds: “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land

²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how.

²⁸ Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.

²⁹ And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.”

³⁰ He said, “To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it?

³¹ It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.

³² But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

³⁴ Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

We began by discussing the story of the mustard seed and the stress that the bush shelters the birds in its shade, as if the main purpose of the whole story is to provide shelter.

We considered the other readings and spoke of how we need to be humble and we both come into and leave the world with nothing. We should treat others as equal no matter what they may or may not have.

We spoke of how it is that big things grow from small beginnings and we need to have confidence and faith in what we are involved in creating without seeing, even when we find it almost impossible to understand.

We talked about the comfort we ought to feel, rather than a sense of loss, as we go through life. We have life as an opportunity to build up a relationship with God, we are not here just to identify a series of laws or rules we have to follow. We do the right thing because we love, and are loved, not out of fear.

We spoke of how we should be joyous when we consider our lives as a journey to a home where we all want to be ultimately. We again considered and enjoyed the wonderful imagery relating to nature and how we are sheltered by it.

Much of what we believe and understand in life we achieve answers through the word of Jesus and we should praise Him for this.

We talked about the line in the second reading "we walk by faith not by sight" and how this can be difficult. We see so much that drags us away from God and makes belief in goodness in the world almost impossible. We need faith to see that our world is or at least can be beautiful and this is what we should be working for in our lives.