

2<sup>nd</sup> Easter Sund. Homily, A, April 19, 2020

Jn 20;19-31

Dear friends,

Nobody is free from worry. There is always some worry or other that troubles and disturbs us, which is reflected on our faces.

Parents worry about their children, students worry about their studies, workers worry about their jobs, the sick about their illness.

But Jesus advises us not to worry about our life's problems. We do not have to worry about what we will eat, drink or wear because of our Father in heaven knows that we need all these things.

Hence Jesus' advice is that "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His justice, all the rest will be given to you."

Here Jesus means, we must rely more on God than on our capabilities, God will take care of us.

Pope John the 23<sup>rd</sup>, entrusted a big diocese to a certain bishop.

During the audience the bishop complained to the Pope that because of the heavy responsibilities of the big diocese, he couldn't sleep.

"Oh, my son", said the Pope, "The same thing happened to me also earlier. In the beginning of my pontificate I too could not sleep properly. But once I heard in a dream an angel telling me, "John, do not make yourself so important," since then I began to sleep well."

Yes, cares and worries should not weigh us down. We should not make them and ourselves so important. "Cast your worries on the Lord" and He will take care to rid us of them.

Evil in the world is a reality. Even though certain kinds of evil cannot be fully explained, we know that many of the evils (accidents, sickness, violence, killings, etc.) are due to wrong choices people make.

The present coronavirus is part of such bad choices, and the continued bad choices made it get out of hand.

The God revealed to us by Jesus Christ is a God of love and compassion.

God is not there to punish us but to welcome us as we turn to Him – in good times and in bad. Whether we are in good relationship with Him or not, God wants us to have a life of joy, peace and fellowship with all.

Even when people make bad choices, God brings good out of those.

One good thing that this pandemic is already bringing about, is connecting us to God as never before.

This is an opportunity for us to realize that we are not in charge as we are taught to believe, that our trust in all the capabilities we have – all the most advanced mechanisms, equipment, weapons, medicine, etc. – are only limited. We acknowledge that there is a greater power who is really in control.

Jesus taught us that this higher power is our loving God who wants our happiness by following His path.

We continue to cooperate with our civil and government authorities. All of us are limited with the many restrictions of movement.

But we are grateful to God that we can still communicate to our near and dear ones no matter where they are.

We are grateful to God that Holy Mass, Reflections and communications are available to us through our parish website and other social media.

Let us make maximum use of these for our spiritual nourishment and be happy and hopeful as we take care of ourselves and our dear ones during our stay at home during this time of crisis.

Cares and worries should not weigh us down. We should not make 'them and ourselves' so important. "Cast your worries on the Lord" and He will take care to rid us of them.

Know that Fr. Nick and myself keep you all in our prayers as we continue to offer daily Mass.