

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 4, 2018

"Job spoke, saying: Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me. If in bed I say, 'When shall I arise?' then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again." (Job 7:1-4,6-7)

I am sure that all of us could agree that this is largely a true picture of the human condition. Drudgery, suffering, physical and psychological disabilities, catastrophes, a pervading sense of uncertainty and hopelessness and unhappiness. Henry Thoreau certainly appreciated this when he wrote: "The majority of people lead lives of quiet desperation."

So, in the face of this we are forced to ask what exactly is the good news that Jesus brings? The all-important thing for us to understand is what this says to us right here and now, what immediate relevance it has for our personal lives. It means that because of our faith in the good news of the gospel - because of it - we can live our lives here and now, in the present, today and tomorrow, right in and right along with all the drudgery and evil of the world.

It is only by living our lives in this way that one can always have the deep-down, genuine peace and happiness that the good news of the gospel promises and guarantees. It is only in this way that the good news of the gospel overcomes the evil and sadness of our world - even now.

Fr. John Nolan
Pastor