

60th Anniversary of Sacred Heart at Nelthorpe

Homily: Fr. Shijo George

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Sacred Heart Church is celebrating its 60th anniversary at Nelthorpe, as a living, vibrant community. It is the perfect time to recall and reflect on our Parish's motto or mission. The Mission Statement is:

We the people of Sacred Heart Parish are a caring community, linked by the bonds of faith, guidance from the Holy Spirit and the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. We strive to live in the heart of Jesus Christ. We will reach out and serve those who are vulnerable and marginalized, seek social justice for all people, foster spiritual growth in our parish family and educate our children in Christian values.

As I said, our 60th anniversary celebration is a time to reflect on our Mission as a parish community, in and around our community, and within society at large. It is a time to thank God for entrusting us with this great mission, and for being a part of the Parish of Sacred Heart.

In the Gospel passage today, the focus is the joy and celebration that the disciples of Jesus have in their lives because Jesus, the bridegroom, is with them. This joy only happens when we are present with our Lord Jesus, and when we focus our lives in living for Jesus. Let us also feel the same joy within us.

Today, we also remember and celebrate the life of a great saint who was nurtured in the sacred love and joy in Jesus: Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. I would like share some of her quotes, to add some insight and inspiration for us, to help us live out the mission of the Sacred Heart Parish.

She said: "Peace begins with a smile".

"Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand".



"If you judge people, you have no time to love them".

In this life, we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love".

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one".

Joy is a net of love in which you can catch souls".

"Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without leaving away better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile."

Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put in that action".

"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family".

I think all these beautiful and inspiring words from Mother Teresa will help us to experience the joy of Christ within us always, and especially on the occasion of our 60th anniversary celebration.

My dear brothers and sisters, let us thrive in the love of Christ, and share this love with our brothers and sisters around the world as did Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and as our Parish Mission Statement encourages us to strive for and uphold.