

“Jesus, Carl and the Pale Blue Dot...”

A message of reflection considering the wonders of the universe and the miracle of life on Earth and how God chose to manifest His Son, Jesus, on our Planet Earth. He chose us. Let us continually choose Him.

27/6/21

I speak in the name of Jesus the Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Let us pray:

“O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake our Lord. Who liveth and reighneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.”

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

An extract from today’s Gospel reading:

“Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, ‘Don’t be afraid; just believe.’”

(Mark 5:36)

You may recall that when I preached a few Sundays ago on Trinity Sunday, we explored some of the concepts of space and time and the wonders of the universe. I mentioned back then that there was a theme I wished to explore at a later date regarding the notion of time and our journey as a Christian.

Today is that day. Let us take a moment this morning and explore some new ideas about the world around us, the love Jesus has for each one of us and our faith and journey as believers.

When I preached on Trinity Sunday, I explored the film Interstellar and the various notions of science and astronomy that it raises. The film specifically explores the notion of time and relativity. This is a complicated concept to grasp and so, as an amateur scientist, I spent a little time researching how time works in terms of the universe. I eventually stumbled across a scientist, Neil Degrasse Tyson, who explained the ending of the film, Interstellar, in layman's terms. Just a reminder that we all exist in a world of four dimensions. The fourth being the dimension of time. We are free to move around at our own will in the first three dimensions but we are a prisoner to the fourth dimension, time. We cannot escape the time we are born into. We are forever transitioning from the present into the future. We have no access to the past and we have no access to the future. If we were able to go a higher dimension and step back from time, then we could, theoretically, look at time like we look at space. Then questions about time become null and void. In a sense, then, we would be able to look at ourselves in our lives and see that we are always being born, we are always dying...

[\(https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/interstellar-explained-meaning-plot-summary/\)](https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/interstellar-explained-meaning-plot-summary/)

Wow! When I first heard Professor Neil deGrasse Tyson utter these words I was blown away. How powerful is this message for us as Christians? Tap on the above link to hear Neil say it in his own words. We are always being born and we are always dying. Time just seems linear to you and I because we are trapped in the fourth dimension. What can we take away from this as Christians in the here and now?

Well, I tell you, this is a stark reminder, and the notions of science back this up, that as Christians we are continually being born. We are continually being born into the life and manner of Jesus. Every time we pray, every time we read the Bible, every time we worship together, every time we talk to Jesus and strengthen our relationship with Him, we are continually been born into Jesus again. Time is not static for us as Christians in our relationship with Jesus. It is fluid, growing and dynamic. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega and if we have faith enough, we are able to be continually born into His love and grace over and over again.

Similarly, as Neil explains, if we were able to step back from time in a higher dimension, we would see that we are always dying... as Christians this remains true, as well, for if we are continually being born and growing closer to Jesus, then we are simultaneously continually dying in terms of our earthly sins and faults. As we grow on a daily basis, so then too are we letting go of all that keeps us from a loving relationship with ourselves, others and Jesus. In essence, we put to death, on a daily basis, all that keeps us from God.

How do we do this?

We grow our faith. Our faith is not trapped in time or in any other dimension. It is a dimension of our soul that allows us to build and grow a loving relationship with God, the very same God who authored and created the incredible universe that you and I live in. Jesus reminded us in the Gospel reading this morning, as he healed the sick woman, "Don't be afraid, just believe."

You may recall that I mentioned another famous scientist when I last preached by the name of Carl Sagan? Carl Sagan was a famous scientist who explained complicated astronomical terms in simple layman's language through the well-known television series, Cosmos.

On the 14th of February 1990, Voyager 1, a satellite launched from Earth, was more than 6 billion kms from Earth and about to leave our solar system. An instruction was radioed back to Voyager 1 from Earth telling it to turn its camera around and take a photograph of Earth. The now famous photograph, called, "The Pale Blue Dot", caught in a ray of sunshine 6 billion kms away, will forever be etched on the conscience of humanity.

When Carl Sagan saw the photograph, he wrote the following...

" Look at this point. It's here. This is our home. That's us. Above is everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you've ever heard of, all human beings that have ever lived. The sum of our joys and suffering. Thousands of religions, ideologies and economic doctrines filled with certainty. All hunters and gatherers, all heroes and cowards, all creators and destructors of civilization. All kings and peasants, all young couples of lovers, all fathers, mothers, children filled with hope, inventors and

explorers. All the moralizers, all the corrupt politicians, all the " superstars ", all the " supreme guides ", all the saints and sinners of our kind's history lived here.. On this grain of dust hanging in a radius of sunshine. Earth is a tiny scene in the huge cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all these generals and emperors so that they may become temporary masters of a fraction... of a point. Think of the never ending cruelties inflicted by locals from one corner of this pixel on residents barely different from another corner. How they struggle to get along, how quick they are to kill each other, how fervent their hatred is. Our postures, our so-called importance, the illusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are put into perspective by this pale light point.

Our planet is isolated dust, wrapped in the cosmic big night. In our darkness, in all this immensity, there is nothing to presume that aid will come from somewhere else, to save us from ourselves. Earth is so far the only known world to shelter life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to where our species could migrate. Visiting, yes. Setting up not yet. Whether you like it or not, for now, it's on Earth that we find ourselves.

Astronomy is said to incite humility and build character. There may not be a better demonstration of human vanity than this distant picture. For me, it highlights our responsibility to coexist more fraternally with each other, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known. "

I would like to add something to this famous monologue that will be forever engraved in space history...

This same Pale Blue Dot, is the very same beautiful place where our loving God chose to create life and to send His only begotten Son so that we may have eternal life and be forever in His presence. Out of all the billions of planets in the universe, out of all the possibilities of life, God still chose us. Let us then, personally and collectively, continually choose Him.

Talitha koum!

Wishing you a blessed and restful Sunday.

Much love

Fr Darron.

