

DECISIONS

We bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and Earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

We are living in a very troubled and confused world, through a very difficult and violent era which seems to be heading for a terrible conflict between East and West; between tyranny and democracy, between freedom and dictatorship. I grew up in a similar era but at that time, only a few countries had nuclear weapons and artificial intelligence was unheard of. Then, most people, whether they practised their religion or not, seemed to believe in God. They turned to God in prayer in times of stress. Fr Paton, an American priest, toured the world promoting the family rosary. People gathered in thousands, at venues, to hear him and join him in prayer. Each evening, my mother gathered the family together to pray the rosary. When the Berlin wall fell and the Iron Curtain no longer seemed a threat, we thought our prayers had been answered but instead of praising God and thanking him, people have turned away from God. Climate change is destroying our world yet heads of states are ignoring the warnings. The need for prayer has never been greater.

There are too many distractions in our societies today which interfere with our prayer life and the decisions we make every day. Our world today has become very materialistic and money and possessions are what people crave for. Those who have enough are not satisfied and those who have plenty use their riches to gain even more. There never has been a time when so much information was so easily available. How much we can rely on that information I dare not to consider. People are being manipulated by the media. It has become a god to many people. Instead of praying to the one true God, they choose to turn to their android phones and their i-pads. From the moment we first wake each morning, we are making decisions all day long. Some decisions are serious and some more trivial, but all are important for every decision we make, every word we utter, every action we take has a consequence. Every time we become lax in our determination to be good, we make it easier to be lax another time. Every time we make a bad decision it seems to lead to more and worse decisions.

This week, I have been moved by the readings from the second letter of St. Peter, *“May you have more and more grace and peace as you come to know our Lord more and more.*

By his divine power, He has given us all the things that we need for life and for true devotion, bringing us to know God himself, who has called us by his own glory and goodness. In making these gifts, He has given us the guarantee of something very great and wonderful to come: through them you will be able to share the divine nature and to escape corruption in a world that is sunk in vice. But to attain this, you will have to do your utmost yourselves, adding goodness to the faith you have, understanding to your goodness, self-control to your understanding, patience to your self-control, true devotion to your Patience, kindness towards your fellow men to your devotion, and to this kindness, love.

As I write, it is the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When I was a child, my parents instilled in me a devotion to the Sacred Heart. When I enter our beautiful church, I look up at the Sacred Heart statue and pray the prayer that they taught me so many years ago, *“O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I implore, make me love you more and more.”* Oh, how we need to turn to Jesus now.