

CONSEQUENCES

*I lift my eyes to the mountains:
From where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 120*

I believe in God! When I look up at the moon and the stars, I realise that I am seeing only a small part of the universe which stretches far beyond what I am able to see. The Universe and all that is in it is created. It overwhelms me for I know that it could not have created itself, therefore there must be a creator. I know that God is the architect of all things and that overwhelms me even more. It is not the existence of God that disturbs me but His greatness and my own nothingness.

Recently, the first readings at Mass have been from the prophet Amos, and they were somewhat disturbing. You might think that he was describing the state of our present very troubled world and our society which seems to have lost its way and seems to have turned its back on much of what Jesus taught us. I have always tried to pass on to my family that it is important to be careful about what we say or do for every word we say and every action we take, there is a consequence. We may not realise it at the time; we may never realise it but there is the possibility that another person could be affected in some negative way by what we have said or done. When God created man, He did not create him to punish or chastise him but to love him and to be loved by him. Everything that goes wrong in this world is a consequence of man's rejection of God. When God made man, He gave him everything he needed. He gave food, shelter, companionship and love. He also gave him freedom. The ability to choose but man has continued to make the wrong choices. In today's world, our most powerful leaders choose war and destruction rather than trying to solve the real problems of Global Warming, poverty and starvation of millions throughout the world.

There are occasions when a person makes a decision that has a deep impact on that person's life but also has a deep and lasting impact on another person's life. We cannot judge the one who made that decision for we do not know nor fully understand what caused that person to make that decision or what pressure that person was under. Nor can we judge the one who was affected by that decision. We cannot judge those who love and try to support both sides of the situation. Forgiveness cannot be demanded; reconciliation cannot be forced. God has forgiven all our sins and through Jesus Christ, His son, we are redeemed but we can only benefit from that if we ourselves fully accept responsibility for all that we have said and done. God's love is unconditional, so too must ours be.

*Brothers and sisters: I consider that the suffering of the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.
Saint Paul to the Romans*

I have never longed for riches, I have only asked for enough to provide for my family. God has always provided enough, sometimes a little more than enough but never too much and I am grateful for that.

O Lord, I am only what you have made me.
I have only what you have given to me;
I have only been able to do what you have given me the ability to do
and I have tried always to do what you have wanted me to do
But I am weak, timid and sinful. O Lord, have mercy on me.

O Holy Spirit, grant me the wisdom to always know, what is the right thing to do.