

Statement for Website
01 April 2020

First, a few things you should know.

- I would like to thank all the people who have been dropping off their Offertory Envelopes through the mail slot at the Parish Office door. Although our Parish income has fallen sharply, as Pastor I appreciate your efforts to financially support the Parish.
- A reminder that any food donations for the St. Vincent DePaul Society to help provide food and toiletries for the less fortunate in our community can be left outside the Parish Office door. Cash donations can be pushed through the mail slot in the door. As of today, our St. Vincent DePaul Society still has enough donations to continue operations, although the supplies are dwindling fast.

Trust is an essential component in any relationship. On their Wedding Day, the only thing spouses can promise each other is that they will be there for each other, no matter what happens. Yet, after they get married, they have to trust their partner will be faithful to that promise. A young child is unable to look after himself or herself. He or she can only trust his or her parents will look after him or her. A patient does not have the medical knowledge to understand their illness or the proper treatment necessary for it. He or she must trust the doctor will do the right thing. Without trust, relationships fall apart.

In today's First Reading, King Nebuchadnezzar throws Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into a fiery furnace because they will not worship his god. During their exile in Babylon, the Jewish people realized their lack of trust in God, which led them to worship other gods, had led to the destruction of Jerusalem and their deportation to a foreign land. When confronted with a choice between worshipping a false god and probable death in a fiery furnace, the three young Jewish men chose the latter. They could only do that if they fully trusted in God. These young men could not know whether God would save them. If they died, they likely trusted God would somehow reward them. If they survived, their trust would be vindicated. Since that trust was tested and found solid, King Nebuchadnezzar likely realized the God whom the three young Jewish men worshipped was the true God and converted.

In the Gospel, Jesus posed a similar challenge to some Jews. If they really believed in him, they would trust that what he said and did was what God wanted. This trust would indicate they were truly free and not slaves to sin. It would demonstrate the kind of trust Abraham showed when he left everything to follow God's call. Yet, these individuals were not quite ready to trust Jesus that much and so their love for him and the Father was incomplete.

The Covid 19 pandemic is testing the trust of many people. When things are changing every day (mostly for the worse) it is hard to trust anyone. Yet, we need to trust the medical experts that their advice will really help us. We need to trust the government officials that their plans to stop the spread of the virus have been well thought out. We need to trust our neighbours will be there when we need them. Finally, we need to trust God will give us the patience to deal with set-backs, the confidence we will get through this crisis and the strength to just keep going.

Trust is the thing we most need right now (even more than ventilators and toilet paper). We have to do things which will build trust between ourselves and others. If we don't, God help us.