

## REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY, 3rd WEEK OF EASTER

### JOHN 6:44-51

We have a big family. The whole family gathered at my family house for a Sunday afternoon party. All of that delicious food was on the menu.

Before we had our big party meal with all of that delicious food, the children played a huge game of 'hide and seek.'

I remember the first time I got to play hide and seek with these big kids.

One of my cousins said, "I'll show you a great place to hide." He led me to the corn crib and told me to hide behind the door in the corner. He told me to stay very quiet so it would be hard for the others to find me. And he told me that I needed to stay there, no matter how long it took the other children to find me.

I went behind the door in the corner of the corn crib. It was hot and dusty.

That's where I hid and waited. I could hear the yells of my cousins as they found some of the children who were hidden, but they couldn't find me in my excellent hiding place!

Eventually, I could not hear any more yelling or laughing. Everything was silent. But I kept waiting... my cousin had told me to stay there until they found me!

After a long, long time, I realised something: no one is coming to look for me. The game was over, and no one noticed that they had lost one of the children. No one noticed that they had started the game with 11 children, and now they were down to 10!

I emerged from that overheated corn crib and I started to cry as I walked back toward the house.

I cried even more when I saw that everyone was eating all of that delicious food. They had started the meal without me! I wanted to scream, "didn't anyone notice that you lost a grandchild?"

My dad saw me crying. I said, "No one came to look for me and now you're eating without me." And he said, 'Get over it!'

That was a long time ago. But I can still remember how sad I was when the rest of my family stopped looking for me when we were playing hide and seek. No one came to find me. No one noticed that I was lost. I can still remember how sad I felt on that day.

Have you ever felt like no one was coming to find you? Like no one noticed that you were lost?

The Bible is full of stories about people who feel lost and alone. The Bible is full of stories about people who feel sad because they are convinced that no one will come to find them.

We are still reading chapter 6 of John's Gospel; something very interesting is going on.

Jesus does something miraculous. He takes a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish, he prays over them, and because Jesus is the Son of God, that little bit of bread and fish somehow fed over 5,000 people.

Then Jesus starts to teach the people so that they can understand the meaning of this miracle.

Jesus says, "I am the bread of life." Think about that. Bread is one of the most important foods that people eat. Bread keeps people alive. If you run out of bread, if you run out of food, you can't stay alive.

So, when Jesus says that he is the "Bread of Life," he is reminding us that without him, without God, we would not be alive! Jesus gives us the strength and nourishment we need to live the life that God wants us to live!

In our Gospel passage today, Jesus mentions that He was sent by God the Father to do God's work here on earth. What is God's work? Well, Jesus says, "This is my Father's will, that I should not lose anything He gave me, but rather that I should raise it on the last day."

When Jesus says this, He is talking about us. He is talking about God's people. God sent Jesus into the world to let each of us know that he never wants us to think that we are completely lost. He never wants us to think that we're isolated. He never wants us to think that no one will come to find us.

There are times in our lives when we feel like we are stuck in the corn crib, and that no one has noticed that we are lost. There are times when we think that everyone has given up on us, and that no one cares about where we are.

But Jesus loves us so much that He never abandons us. He notices. He knows where we are, and he is with us where we are. We're never isolated. The Lord is always with us, loving us, and since the Lord loves us that way, he asks us to love each other that way.

Right now, there may be some people in your neighbourhood who feel like they're stuck in the corn crib. There may be some people near you who feel alone, isolated, lost, sick, struggling financially. Maybe they think that no one notices that they are afraid.

We can let them know that we love them, and that God loves them. Even if you can't go and visit them, you can share God's love with them. Maybe you could send them a message and let them know that you're thinking of them or give them a call.

Jesus is the bread of life. He makes it possible for us to live the life God wants us to live. And Jesus wants us to know that he is with us, even when we feel lost. It's so good to know that God always notices where we are, and he loves us wherever we go.

Fr Patrick