

“Let us make man in our image and likeness.” But instead, I’m afraid we’ve made God in our own image and likeness. And what are we like?

Well look around. Look at our streets, look at our marriages and family life, look at our wars, at starvation in our world!

It is not a pretty picture.

So often we present God as angry and punishing – someone to be feared. But what does Jesus say? “Come to me all you who labor and are heavy burdened. Take my yoke upon your shoulders for I am meek and humble of heart, and you’ll find rest for your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burdens light.

Hear Jesus in today’s Gospel? “Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.” Listen to Jesus, “... there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.” And again, “...there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

When the father of the wayward son caught sight of him, he was filled with compassion. He embraced him and kissed him. The father exclaims, “let us celebrate with a feast.”

I believe we need to focus on the true God, the God that Jesus speaks of. There surely is sin, plenty of it and there is the justice of God. But the mercy, the forgiveness, the love of God is greater. We need to let people know who God really is.

So often as I sit in the Confessional I hope somebody comes in. It’s wonderful to celebrate the mercy, the forgiveness, the love of God with people. It’s true we are all sinners, but God’s love is so much greater.

Why is the true image of God so often distorted? It may be we have made Him according to our image and likeness. Will the real God please stand up? Amen

Come to Me!