

## Homily 17th Sunday Ordinary Time

I just love that ad for hearing aids. I think it's a Specsavers advertisement. The husband returns from shopping with enough food to feed two hundred people. The wife gobsmacked by the abundance of food cries out, 'I said TWO HUNGRY people not two hundred people!' He obviously wasn't in the 'loop' if you excuse the pun.

Jesus says, 'I am the bread of life.' and its meaning can be unlocked in today's readings. When Moses asked God, 'What name shall I give you?' he replied 'I am who I am.' Thus Jesus by stating 'I AM the bread of life.' he is claiming equality with God, he is God's Son. He is God!

Miracles are signs which are visible, go beyond the known powers of nature and medicine and confirm the words of Jesus to be true. The Multiplication of The Loaves and Fishes', confirm Jesus as 'The Bread of Life,' He is truly the God of Abundance, rich in mercy and abounding in love.

In the First Reading from 2 Kings, Elisha replies to his servant when the servant questions him about feeding so many with so little food, 'Give it to the people to eat', Elisha insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some left over, as the Lord had said.' This, like the manna given by God to the people in the desert is a prefigure of The Eucharistic Bread.

In The Gospel Reading The Feeding of The 5000 also prefigures the Eucharist and the miracle confirms Jesus as God, a living God who will give us the 'bread of life' through his passion, death and Resurrection. This miracle also confirms Jesus as a generous God who gives himself up for us that we 'may never again be hungry.'

At Mass we relive Jesus' passion, death and Resurrection and in receiving Holy Communion we become heirs to life eternal in God's Kingdom of Abundance. As heirs to that Kingdom St Paul in his letter to The Ephesians exhorts us, 'I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your calling. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together.'

By virtue of our Baptism and Confirmation we are called to missionary discipleship. Sustained by The Bread of Life we are commanded to 'go out to the whole world and proclaim The Good News of The Kingdom of God.', as priests, daughters and sons of The King and prophets who proclaim The Word of God's abundant love.

What a privilege to be called to such a servant state!