

Whether Sweet or Sour, Sentimentality is a Swamp

A friend commented about the same-sex controversy, saying that he has family members who are gay and they are furious with the Catholic Church, saying, "Who are they to define marriage?"

In discussing the problem we observed that most people are now so swamped by subjective sentimentalism that they cannot conceive of someone having moral values that are given by an outside source of authority.

Subjectivism is having one's thoughts, moral decisions and relationships determined solely by their effect on oneself. I become the judge of all things because there is no other agreed, external authority. Sentimentalism is that frame of mind which is determined not by thought or logic or any kind of reasoning at all, but purely by emotion and personal feelings. Sentimentalism and subjectivism are both caused by not having an agreed external authority and by an underlying relativism. If relativism is true, then there is not only no agreed external authority, but there is also no such thing as truth, and of course, if there is no such thing as truth, then there can be no such thing as logic or reasoning in any way. If there is no logic or reasoning, then one is left only with one's emotions as ways of making decisions and judgements.

Today people are now so caught up in subjective sentimentalism that they can't think straight - because there is nothing left to think about. They can't obey or disobey, because there is no authority or authoritative code to obey or disobey. All they can do is make up their own course of action and respond irrationally according to their emotions. Without any logic or reasoning, and only going on one's emotions, one doesn't quite know how to decide on difficult questions. Therefore one is very open to suggestion, propaganda, emotional appeals and emotive reactions.

This subjective sentimentality can surface in a sweet way or a sour way. The sweet way seems to be all goodness and happiness, light and peace... just being kind and good and nice and tolerant to everyone. The second way it surfaces is sour. Someone disagrees with the subjective sentimentalist and they condemn them.

Therefore, in the present debate over same-sex marriage people simply cannot comprehend that Catholics operate according to a different set of systems. We believe that same-sex activities and same-sex marriage are wrong, for clear and articulate reasons. Furthermore, we believe they are wrong while still accepting gay people, not judging them and allowing them into our lives. We can believe they are wrong while also acknowledging that gay people have many gifts, are capable of great human achievement, human love and many other good things.

Yet the subjective sentimentalist cannot work this out and will not believe it is possible. He thinks we're lying because to disapprove of an action or lifestyle, for him, is to disapprove of the person and to condemn them.

The underlying problem and impasse is as old as Pontius Pilate who asked, "What is Truth?" The answer was not a theory or a philosophical proposition, but a person. The person standing in front of him. *Fr. Dwight Longenecker, NCR*



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona

Parish Priest: Fr John Fowles



Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith. James 2:18

Pastoral Associate: Br Denis Devcich | **Acolyte:** Denis Golden
Phone: 02 6043 2222 | thurgoonacatholicparish@hotmail.com
Fax: 02 6043 2224 | www.thurgoonacatholicparish.com
Address: 20 Hartigan St, Thurgoona 2640 | PO Box 110, Lavington 2641
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Mass Times

Saturday: - (Vigil) 6pm

Sunday: - 9:30am & 5:30pm

Monday: - 8am Mass

Tuesday: - 10am, Mass of Mercy, *2nd
Tues of month Anointing of the sick*

Wednesday: - 8am

Thursday: - 7pm, Mass & Family Novena

Friday: - 8am

Saturday: - 8am, Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

Sacraments and Devotions

Adoration - Fri 8:30am to 10:30am

Precious Blood - 10am

Rosaries - Thurs 6:30pm and Sun 9am

Reconciliation - Thursday after Novena

Sat after 8am Mass & 5:30 to 5:50pm

Sun 9 to 9.20am & 5.00 to 5:20pm

Baptism and Marriage - By appointment

Legion of Mary Praesidia :

Mon 9:30am - Mystical Rose

Wed 8:30am - Mary Immaculate

Thur 5.30pm - Mother of Divine Grace

~ Parish Notices ~

Dates for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation: First Reconciliation - Sunday 9th September 2017 & First Holy Communion on Sunday 10th September 2017 at 9.30am Mass.

Faith & Family Matters - Wednesday 16th August at 7pm in presbytery - *Triumph of the Immaculate Heart: Theology of the Body and Our Lady of Fatima*

The Hammer & Nails Team - 'come as you are' gathering of men at the Presbytery on 25th August at 6.00pm. We have a Guest Speaker. A light meal will be provided, please bring your own refreshments.

Australian Marriage Lobby - same sex plebiscite - Government plans a postal vote to decide the future of marriage. Ballot papers will begin arriving at people's homes on September 12. Australian Christian Lobby is part of the Coalition for Marriage. We encourage you to do these things right away -

1) Please call people to pray. The loss of the definition of marriage in public policy will dramatically re-shape our nation and have consequences for children via "safe schools" and for freedom of religion and speech. - **2)** Encourage people to make sure they are registered to vote. Because the plebiscite is voluntary, we need your help to participate responsibly in voting. Lyle Shelton Managing Director, ACL

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 13 August 2017

Collect: Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading 1 Kings 19:9,11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of the God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Second reading Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'



Communion Antiphon Ps 147:12,14

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

Feast of the week: *Mon*-Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest, Martyr,

Tues-The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lord hear our prayers for the:

Sick: John Dwyer, Jenny Mannering, Elizabeth Forbes, Bob Mannering, Noel Glasgow, Matthew Cameron, Kieran Clifford, Theresa McCooke,

Departed: Iean Cummings, Brendan Jacobs, John McDonald, Kevin Golding,

Anniversaries: Dooli Carrol, Joyce Doolan, Mary O'Brien, Mons William Fulton

Readers: this week: Sat 6pm - Lucy Findlay Sun 9.30am - Kieran Williams

Readers & Cleaners Roster - 19/20 August 2017

Readers: Sat: 6.00 pm - Peter Tobin Sun: 9.30 am - Magdalina Kuna

Cleaning: Group 5 - Kathleen Horfall

Financial Report: Please make cheques payable to "Thurgoona Catholic Parish" or Direct Debit: BSB 012-708: Ac No. 3546 39223. Please include name on transfer.

First Collection: \$428.10, Envelope: \$260.00+ Direct Debit: \$220.00, Loose: \$284.10

Traditional marriage existed well before Christianity

1. Traditional marriage existed well before Christianity and it has existed in societies which are not and never have been Christian.
2. The nurture of children in a recognised and ordered relationship with their parents, is integral to the concept of marriage as it has been developed as an institution.
3. The creation of families and the raising of children are matters of public concern: this recognition of the centrality of procreation to marriage pre-dates Christianity and is assumed in most cultures and religions. It has long been recognised as forming part of the natural law.
4. Today as in the past, children – wanted and unwanted – have always been at the heart of marriage.

Professor Michael Quinlan, Dean of the School of Law, University of Notre Dame Australia, Sydney

Be with me today Lord.

Every day I need you, Lord but this day especially, I need some extra strength to face whatever is to be....

This day more than any day I need to feel you near, to fortify my courage and to overcome my fear.

By myself, I cannot meet the challenge of the hour.

There are times when human creatures need a higher power to help them bear what must be borne.

And so dear Lord, I pray hold on to my trembling hand and be with me today.

