

Sunday June 26, 2022
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Parishioner Reflection

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God anoints Elijah. God anoints Elisha. God also anoints each one of us. God's anointing is our personal and unique invitation to participate in Divine relationship.

Anointed, we receive God's protection and companionship for every single beat of our heart's journey through life. Through God's fidelity we are called to live in Divine relationship by living in relationship with each neighbour. Within the Body of Christ, we become collaborators in the transformation of this world into Love. We are strengthened to live out our daily rounds in faithful Hope of the fulfilment of God's Promise to all humanity.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup.... Today our psalmist accepts God's invitation knowing that God offers lasting fulfillment.

Where do I choose to place my energy each day? Where do I choose to place my attention? Do I formulate an intention for my day that springs from my committed relationship with God? Am I available to others - to listen, to care, to attend to, to stand with and through all the joys and sorrows of life?

Jesus warns us that now, having moved into this new freedom, not to take our hand off the plough or look back. If we wobble or back-track, especially when faced with uncertainty and fear, it will be difficult to stay firm in the freedom of God's Love. Paul too encourages his followers not to turn away from the freedom Christ has offered – don't turn away and get tangled up and trapped by the burdens of life and the easy answers that are no answers at all!

The transformation of the world in Love is a collaborative process. God is faithful to us through it all. We, however, often struggle with our commitment. We get distracted. We may begin each day with new resolve - to pray, journal, reach out to someone in need.... And we arrive at the end of our day having forgotten or perhaps bypassed our intentions. We wonder how we let so much of the real estate in our minds and hearts be occupied by

needless worry. And we then compound our suffering by shaming ourselves or becoming anxious, believing we have failed.

At times we all can feel deficient, unworthy, unfaithful, and flawed. Take heart! The mystic poet Rumi encourages us... Come even though you have broken your vows a thousand times, Come, and come yet again. Ours is not a caravan of despair...

We forget that the door to God's kingdom is always open for us! In fact, I suspect Christ has taken that door right off the hinges and knocked the door frame even wider to allow for all Creation's creatures, arriving in a multiplicity of ways – crawling, limping, by wheelchair or even carried gently in the arms of a loved one. God is eternally faithful to us and waits patiently for our arrival at the door of the Kingdom.