

Sunday 21 June 2020

Cn. Anne Wentzel

*Short Reflection on the Gospel Reading*

*Matthew 10. 26 - 34*

*Following on from last week's Gospel reading of the call of the disciples, Jesus continues to instruct the Twelve. The words set down for today speaks to a wider audience of believers in respect to the challenges they and we will face in attempting to live and give witness to the Gospel.*

*Fr Brendan Byrne an Australian theologian says of the reading:*

*"The text is governed by the recurring theme, 'Do not fear', 'Do not be afraid...'*

*Jesus recognises that there will be much that will cause his disciples to be afraid but tries to get them to distinguish appropriate from inappropriate fear.*

*There is a false fear and a true fear. Disciples need not fear those (human persecutors) who can kill the body, because their entire physical existence is held within the hands of God and is precious in God's sight.*

*If God values the life of sparrows sold two for a penny, marking when they fall to the ground, how much more does the Heavenly Father value and protect the lives of believers worth more than hundreds of sparrows!*

*Those who stand firm in witness to the Gospel and the values it enshrines, even to the risk of death, can be confident that their ultimate fate lies in the hand of God and will one day be vindicated."*

The Lord be with you