

## SERMON 18C – 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST.

My friends, we are now well into the traditional holiday season, our parish school is on its long summer break, and many of you will be planning trips away, I myself will be away for 8 days from this month and Fr. Jonathon from Belmont as usual will be supplying in the Parish. But things are still quite busy, hopefully the repairs to our St. Michaels parish centre will be completed this week, perhaps !!

There are also some more spiritual events taking place, you may have read in the newsletter about the coming pilgrimage/walk to commemorate our local martyr David Lewis, there is the annual pilgrimage to his grave in Usk on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August, but the day before Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> we have a day walk/pilgrimage visiting 5 local Churches, info available on our website and on the noticeboard at the back of Church. Leaving after the 10am mass that day, and waking to and visiting 5 local Churches and saying prayers especially for the persecuted Church today. Also on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August a film, called “Water is Life” is being shown in our centre, organised by “Greener Abergavenny” about the sdaily struggle fo water many people in this world have to endure. This multi-award winning film will be presented by one of the Films Creators, from Portugal, Isabel Rosa. Also each Wednesday of August, there is a parents and childrens group running in our centre from 10.30am -12noon, called Michaels Mates.

Our Gospel reading today, included the parable of the rich fool, the man who puts all his trust in earthly things, in earthly wealth, without any regard to his own immortal soul and the things of heaven. You might say his behaviour perfectly fulfilled the words of the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, the famous words from Ecclesiastes, vanity of vanities all is vanity, the vanity, the stupidity or vanity of putting all your trust in earthly things, things that do not endure and can never ultimately satisfy. Our Lord was prompted to preach the parable by the man in the crowd, asking Our Lord to help in his family argument over a inheritance. Even though this happened 2000 years ago, things are not so different in our own day, so many family arguments still over money and possessions. Our Lord frequently preached on the dangers of the love of money, of avarice, of greed, St. Paul also said today, that it is the same as worshipping a false God, an idol. Each generation is faced with these temptations, and as the world seems to get every richer in earthly terms, the temptations get ever stronger, to judge our lives and happiness on what we own and use.

But our Lord said today, a mans life is not made secure on what he owns, so we should ask what does make our life secure, what is a good foundation on which to build our lives, what does give us true security. Perhaps those old fashioned phrases, such as, building treasure in heaven not on earth, is helpful, using our wealth to benefit others, as well, that Christian virtue of almsgiving and charity, we talk about that in lent especially, but it is a year round obligation. And perhaps also today the words of St. Paul from his letter to the Colossians. He writes to those first Christians reminding them of what they should put their trust in-Christ, their new life in Christ, that new life that began in their baptism, when they turned away from earthly idols and Gods, and towards the true God and his son, Jesus. To have their thoughts on heavenly things, not earthly. Good advice for us today, and something we need to always be reminded of, for we are faced every day with the temptation to put our trust in earthly things, the temptation too worship earthly goods and possessions. We have the duty to be different, to show here our trust, our security lies, in the promises of Christ. This is the work of evangelisation, sharing our faith in heavenly things wioth others, giving witness to our faith that earthly things can never truly satisfy, only our faith in and love for Christ can do that. Amen.