

RTE Harvest broadcast October 2018

The King's Hospital School

School Chaplain – The Rev Canon Peter Campion

Intro (Choir) Ag Criost an siol 2 mins

Introduction

Ag Criost an siol, ag Criost an fomhar,
In iothlainn De, go dtugtar sinn

The seed is Christ's and his the sheaf,
within God's barn may we be stored.

Good morning and welcome to the studio here at RTE. My name is Canon Peter Campion and I am the Church of Ireland chaplain at The King's Hospital in Palmerstown, Dublin. We are here this morning to celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving with you. This is a particularly special academic year for our school as we will be celebrating our 350th anniversary at the start of 2019. It is amazing to think that for 350 years, students have been coming together every morning in the chapel during term time to worship God. We have many activities planned to celebrate and give thanks for the school's rich and diverse history.

Our school currently has 280 boarders. Traditionally many of our boarders come from farming backgrounds in rural Ireland. A number of our students annually attend the Ploughing Championships. Our Agricultural Science class came into chapel a few weeks ago wearing their coats and wellies to give thanks to God for the Harvest before heading out to the Championships. Though we are a school close to the city we must always remember how important it is to give thanks to God for the many people who work the land and provide our food. In the modern Ireland of supermarkets, our young people need to understand the link between the land and the plate.

The theme of this year's service Harvest Service is the Mustard Seed - and how something small can grow into something great.

I greet you in the name of the Lord
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Lord is my strength and my song.
He has become my salvation,
Sing to the Lord for he has done glorious things.
Let it be known in all the world.
The earth is the Lord's and the goodness thereof.
Let us praise him for his bounty,
The Lord is our light and our life.
Come, let us worship.

We sing our opening hymn, We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on
the land

Hymn 47

We plough the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's Almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
for all his love.*

He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower
and lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us his children,
he gives our daily bread.

We thank you, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer,
and all your love imparts
and that which you most welcome,

our humble, thankful hearts.

Penitence

As we recall our disobedience to do God's commandments and our failure to do his will, let us confess our sins to God our Father,

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault, We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins, For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.
Amen**

God, who forgives all who truly repent. Have mercy on you. Pardon and deliver you from all your sins and confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Acclamation

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, our God and Father, for you created us and sustain us. You have given us again the kindly fruits of the earth in their season, We rejoice in your faithfulness. Through your only Son Jesus Christ you have revealed your love and your care for all your people, you are ready to forgive and to save in time of need; so we proclaim your glory singing:

Sanctus (Choir)

First reading Psalm 100

read by John Aiken, Head of Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

² Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

³ Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his^[a];
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

⁵For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Choir When Peace Like A River Philip Bliss, arr. Dale Grotenhuis

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Second Reading: Read by John Rafter, Headmaster

The New Testament reading is from the Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 4, beginning at verse 30

Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Choir All things bright and beautiful **3 mins**

All things bright and beautiful John Rutter

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours, he made their tiny wings.
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

The purple headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset and the morning, that brightens up the sky;
The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well.
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

2nd reading read by Cian O'Dowd

Journey: a poem by Anthony Matthis

I'm lost inside this is my personal odyssey on this journey I'm not slaying maidens or sirens I'm trying to slay my demons I feel like Dante while my inferno burns my deadly sins are anger, jealousy, heartache, despair, hopelessness, solitude, and fear these seven turn me into a coward rather than a dark knight I stopped hopelessness with a mustard seed, heartache with a heart full of words that get life through a beat, the reverse of solitude when I get to thinking and talking to people, jealousy stopped when I saw the work people put into their craft, fear destroyed itself and I'm dealing with anger from this voyage not being what I want it to be and despair from past opportunities that turned to dust but I persist because it will get better than this, even a map was once blank finding my way to a new better place will lead to a larger peak and I'll find myself, break the shell and soar

Choir For all Good Things **4 mins**

For All Good Things Joseph Martin and Vicki Tucker Courtney

We thank you, God, for rolling hills, for mountains' majesty.
We thank you, God, for meadows green, for ocean, sky and sea.
Your gifts are around us, your goodness surrounds us, accept now the praises we bring.
We thank you, God, for all good things.

We thank you, God, for life and breath, with humble, grateful hearts.
We thank you, God, for loving care and joy that you impart.
Your gifts are around us, your goodness surrounds us, accept now the praises we bring.
We thank you, God, for all good things.

We thank you, God, for faith and hope to teach us how to live.
We thank you, God, for truth and love that make us want to give.
Your gifts are around us, your goodness surrounds us, accept now the praises we bring.
We thank you, God, for all good things,
for all good things.

Sermon 5.20 mins

A few years ago, we planted a few seed potatoes in our garden. They thrived and we had a very plentiful harvest, more than we had wanted. They seemed to spread everywhere. We eventually tried to dig out the potato bed and turn it into a compost heap. But the potatoes came back. We tried again digging the bed out completely but when we returned from holiday they were all back taking over most of the bed. And so it has continued. On the plus side we have plenty of potatoes. We have never had great success with vegetables, but this was an unexpected if unwanted triumph. We accepted defeat and are moving the compost heap elsewhere. In today's gospel reading, Jesus talks about a small seed, the tiny mustard seed, and how this tiny seed could grow into something incredible. Unlike our fields of yellow flowering mustard, he was familiar with mustard trees that grew wild across the Middle East and Africa reaching twenty to thirty feet high. Jesus is talking of the Kingdom of God which often starts with something small but can grow. He explains, through his parables and miracles, that his vision of a new Kingdom was one in which love, forgiveness, inclusiveness and equality flourished.

I have been chaplain at The King's Hospital for 13 years. I find that the best things that I have done during this time have not come from any grand scheme of my own, but from the suggestion of an enthusiastic student who wanted to try something new. It started out with something small and then it grew. One example of this is when a third year boy asked if we could sleep out on the streets one night to raise awareness and money for the homeless of Dublin. The thought of sleeping out on the pavement and the responsibility of the safety of our students didn't particularly appeal to me, but I didn't want to dampen his enthusiasm so I reluctantly agreed to give it a go. That was 10 years ago and we have been doing it every year since, raising money for organisations like the Peter McVerry Trust and Tiglin Challenge. It has been an incredible learning experience for all of us and has borne fruit in so many different ways.

Seven years ago, a transition year student asked if she could bring her aunt into school to talk about a project she was involved in. She had founded The Hope Foundation, working with homeless and slum children in Kolkata, India. Maureen Forrest spoke so passionately about this work that we were swept up into raising money for The Hope Foundation and travelling out to Kolkata ourselves to visit the projects. We have been involved ever since. At the end of this month, a group of dedicated students are travelling to Kolkata to see how

the money they have raised over the last year is put to use to help children to get off the streets and into safe homes, health care and most importantly education.

These two examples of mustard seeds have changed the lives of so many people: our own students as well as homeless people in Dublin and in Kolkata.

Movements which have their basis in love, inclusiveness and equality, which seek to change peoples' hearts, have a tendency to take flight and end up profoundly changing the way people think. One example of this is the #metoo movement. It began with one courageous young woman saying "I'm not going to put up with this anymore and I never want to see anyone else experience what I have" and another woman replying "me too" and thousands of others following suit. I don't think either of them would have anticipated the tsunami of change which followed.

There have been two referenda held recently in Ireland which have upended Irish society. Very few anticipated the margin of difference between the two voices of opinion. Some say that this is a sign of a growing secular society. I think many people based their votes on what they felt was the most loving, inclusive and equal way forward, whether they were religious or non-religious. There is no doubt that Ireland is a different country that it was even a few years ago. The change of opinion started off as something small and began to grow over time. Like my potatoes, for some this involved growth in a direction they did not want and could not seem to stop, despite their best efforts and were forced to accept the result and move forward with the consequences. Jesus preached that love was always more important than law. When Jesus healed a man on the sabbath day he was questioned for breaking the Jewish law but he felt that it was better to heal than to let suffer, even if it meant going against traditional teaching. Whenever we are faced with a difficult decision we must always look for guidance from the Church's teaching, but we must also work out for ourselves what the most loving thing to do is in a situation. When love is the focus of our decision making seeds of growth will begin. Followers of Christ may come to different conclusions of what this means. Jesus said that something small like the mustard seed could grow into something much greater. He said that the Kingdom of God was the same. Focusing our lives on his vision of love, inclusion, equality and forgiveness can create an enormous growth of His kingdom. May we move into the future with our hearts and minds focused on Christ's vision. "The seed is Christ's and his the sheaf within God's barn may we be stored."

Anthem (Choir) The time for turning 4 mins

The Time for Turning Craig Courtney

To everything a season, to everything a time;
A moment to move forward and leave the past behind.
As summer turns to autumn and bids farewell to spring,
there comes a time for turning to every living thing.

The breezes change direction, the geese turn homeward bound.
The leaf turns from its clinging and falls upon the ground.
The flower turns from blooming to slumber in the snow.
And so to all a season, a time for letting go.

Now is the time for turning, and this the place to start;
for yielding to the yearning, for changing of the heart;
a moment to surrender the things we should release,
forgive and find forgiveness, and in forgiveness, peace,
and in forgiveness, peace.

Affirmation of faith

Stand

On this day on which we celebrate the harvest of the earth, let us affirm what we believe:

We believe in God the Father, the source of all life. We believe in God the Son, who took our human nature, died and rose again. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world. We believe that the earth is the Lord's and all that lives on it. We believe that living gratefully and giving generously are marks of faith. We believe that all humanity should have access to the earth's resources, and that every individual must now act to preserve this world so that the children of tomorrow may not be burdened with the mistakes of today. And so we commit ourselves to think globally, to trade

fairly, to live responsibly, to love this world as God loves it, who in Christ became part of creation. Amen.

Sit

Prayers led by the Chapel Committee

Lord, at this harvest time we thank you for all the good things you give us every day. As we thank you for our food we remember all those who do not have enough for even one proper meal each day. Bless all those, Lord, who suffer because of the greed of others. Help us to share the harvests of the world more fairly so everyone can be fed and there will be no more starvation.

Lord of all creation: **hear our prayer**

We give thanks today, O Lord, for opportunities to spread Jesus's vision of the kingdom of love, inclusiveness, equality and forgiveness. We thank you for the parable of the mustard seed and how it teaches us that growth of your kingdom can occur from the tiniest of seeds or ideas. Help us, O Lord, to discern your will, that we may all share in your vision of a new world. Lord of all creation: **hear our prayer**

At this harvest time we thank you for the hard work of all those who grow, protect and prepare our food; for the shopkeepers, the transport delivery drivers, the processors and the farmers. Bless all those, Lord, who do not earn a fair day's pay for their hard work both at home and in other countries. Help us to want to buy local produce and fairly traded goods wherever we can so that everyone can work with dignity and there will be no more poverty.

Lord of all creation: **hear our prayer**

At this harvest time we thank you for the world we see around us; for the flowers, the trees and the animals. Bless all those who care for them, Lord. Help us to protect your creation by being careful about how we use your resources so that there will be clean water, clean air and plenty of wild birds, mammals and insects to maintain the ecological balance of our countryside.

Lord of all creation: **hear our prayer**

General Collect

Eternal God and Father, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love: Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give of

ourselves in love and service to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord's Prayer (in Irish)

Ár nAthair atá ar neamh,
Go naofar d'ainm,
Go dtaga do ríocht,
Go ndéantar do thoil
Ar an talamh mar a dhéantar ar neamh.
Ar n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu,
Agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha,
Mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin,
Agus ná lig sinn i gcathú,
Ach soar sinn ó olc.
Oir is leatsa an ríocht, agus an chumhacht,
agus an ghloir, tri shaol na saol.
Aimean.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Closing hymn 581

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
If you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?**

Blessing

May the God who supplies seeds to sow and bread to eat, supply us with all we need to produce a rich harvest. And may the blessing of God our maker, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, remain with us and be made known through us, now and always. Amen.