

## Thought for the day – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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### Children

Conflict, division, strife, and misunderstanding are part and parcel of life – no family, no company, no parish, and no organisation is exempt from it. We must not be afraid to stand up for what is right, true, and just, and we must not be afraid of conflict or disagreement.

#### **Bible passage:**

<sup>13</sup> Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

<sup>14</sup> Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” <sup>15</sup> When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

- Matthew 19:13-15

Thank God that now and again we are still able to help our children with baby - sitting. More so as it is coming up to long Summer holidays.

Jesus highlights the truth that the disposition of a child is required if we are to enter the kingdom of heaven. Of course, as every parent knows, children can be a little angel but also “little devils” and therefore need ongoing training and formation. Children witness more often to joy, simplicity, happiness, love for those they depend on. Children view the world through the prism of their innocence, simplicity, and dependence on others. They tend not to be cynical or prone to unbelief, but rather are open to new teaching.

The Scriptures gives no indication of the ages of the children brought to Jesus for blessing, but it would be reasonable to suggest that they were little children, as in Matthew’s gospel. The scene of blessings and innocent joy is rudely interrupted by the disciples who rebuked and chastise these parents for bringing their children to Jesus for blessing. However, Jesus reassured his disciples that children are precious in God’s eye, therefore should be protected.

#### **Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, grant me the grace to be courageous and strong to stand up for the truth of the gospel, whatever it costs.