

Thought for the day – Friday 5th August 2022

by Revd John Ohen

FAITH

How deep and strong is your faith in all that is going on in our world today? The face of the war in Ukraine, Industrial strikes, electioneering, climate change, and so on? Even if our faith is as small as the Mustard seed, bearing in mind that the mustard seed was the smallest seed used by Palestinian farmers. Once it is planted in a favourable condition, the seed could produce a tree over ten feet tall. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us an important lesson about faith and our relationship with God.

God, it seems, deals in smallness. God works amidst the obscure, the ordinary and the hidden. We can see this principle manifest very well in the incarnation, in Jesus' coming to share in our humanity. Jesus' life if you like is like a mirror of the parable of the Mustard Seed.

Jesus was born in poverty as an obscure Palestinian. He worked as a carpenter until he was thirty years. He owned no home and never got married. He had no credentials, no University education. The tide of public opinion turned against him when he was young. His friends deserted him, and one denied ever knowing him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was crucified between two thieves. To crown it all, his executioners gambled for the only piece of property his "coat" which he had on earth.

Now, listen to this when he died, he was buried in a borrowed grave, and he rose on the third day. Yet this hidden and inconsequential life has become the very centrepiece of our human history. One of the major lessons here is that no one's life is insignificant to God our heavenly Father, and therefore we should deepen our faith in God.

Through our Baptism we have received the seed of Jesus Christ's divine life.

Jesus' life in us is hidden and obscure and one day it will break forth and be manifest in all its beauty and glory.

Bible passage: [Matthew 13. 31 – 35.](#)

Prayer.

Lord, you planted the seed of your word in the good soil of my heart.
Through baptism this word has taken root. By your grace may my faith
grow and bear fruit for your kingdom