

## 11B

*Shortly after a new church had been built, a man stood outside admiring it. Standing right beside him was a little girl about seven or eight. 'Mister,' queried the child, 'do you like that Church?' 'Yes, my dear, I think it is quite lovely said the man.' 'Well, mister I'm glad you like it because I helped to build it.' 'You helped to build it' was the astonished reply. The child nodded. 'But, said he, 'you're only a little girl - how did you help to build it?' 'My Daddy is a bricklayer, 'came the prompt reply, 'and when he worked on the church, I used bring him his tea and sandwiches.*

The same applies to building up the Kingdom of God on Earth. Every little thought, word and gesture of love, however insignificant, goes to build up God's Kingdom in our midst. Opportunities to do this are there for everyone. *Jesus says: 'take the mustard seed, at the time of its sowing, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, but once sown, it grows into the biggest shrub there is'.* Sowing little seeds of love along the pathway of life is what makes us great. It's not the grand gestures. However, this doesn't mean we sow sparingly - thin sowing means thin reaping.

*One day someone commented to Mother Teresa of Calcutta: 'There are so many poor people in Calcutta that her work with the homeless and dying was miniscule.'* Mother Teresa looked the person straight in the eye and said: *God does not call us to great things but faithfulness in little things.*

I believe that relationships can become strained when small acts of affection are routinely overlooked - a thank you kiss, an uplifting smile, flowers out of the blue, a short prayer with your little ones at bedtime and much more.

They say that if you sow the seed of a bamboo tree it takes a full five years before anything appears above the ground and

then, once above the ground, it grows to a staggering 90 feet in a mere six weeks.

We're living in a world where we expect everything to happen instantly at the flick of a switch or the touch of a button. Our small acts of love may not be immediately reciprocated or even acknowledged. It does not matter if people take little or no notice when you sow tiny seeds of love. St Theresa once said: 'If we go through life without anyone noticing our good deeds, so much the better'. The seed grows secretly even while we're asleep. But God is not asleep - He sees into our heart and knows how much it cost us to love. St Theresa again said that small hidden sacrifices done on behalf of others are what please our Lord.

The growth of the kingdom of Love in me can often be an uphill struggle. It's often the unacknowledged acts of kindness, the hidden crosses offered to Jesus, the unkind word held back - all these are moments of grace which contribute towards the flowering of the Kingdom.

*Some people underestimate themselves and think that, in the great schema of things they can't contribute anything. The Gospel today states quite the opposite. Like the little girl in the opening story, everyone has a part to play, howsoever minor, in building up the Kingdom of God where they are.*