

## 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 done for show which make the difference. However, this doesn't mean we sow these little seeds of love 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 is like 'a drop in the ocean'. 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 card, an uplifting smile, flowers out of the blue, a pat on the back, a short prayer with your little ones at bedtime and much more.

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 these tiny mustard 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 hearts and knows all the mustard seeds of love we have shown in the garden of our lives. St Theresa again said that small hidden sacrifices done on behalf of others are what please our Lord.

It's often the unacknowledged acts of kindness, the hidden crosses offered to Jesus, the caustic remark held back - all these are little mustard seeds of grace which help us grow into the persons God wants us to be.

*Some people underestimate themselves and think that, in the great schema of things their contribution won't count for much. The Gospel today states quite the opposite. Everyone has a part to play, howsoever minor, in contributing towards the building up of His Kingdom on earth.*