

Colossians: 1, 15-20

Luke 5: 33-39

Perhaps there is a message about fasting in today's Gospel. Jesus wanted the Scribes and Pharisees to know that life was not just about 'religiously' following rules and regulations but, rather, living life with and in himself.

That, when we walk with Jesus, listening to his word and following his ways, we are fed by his life in us. But when we are apart from him, as the Scribes and Pharisees were by their self-centred obsessions and lack of social concern for others; Then there was a need to take stock and fast. Like them, we need to turn to Jesus. To read his word, seek reconciliation and receive Jesus in the Sacraments. Learn from old ways and leave them behind us. As Jesus tells us, 'Don't try to patch up a new cloak (way of life) with old ways (failures). New wine needs new skins.

Paul reflects, in his letter to the Colossians that, "Before anything was created, he (Christ Jesus) existed, and he holds everything in unity.....All things are to be reconciled through him and for him."

Life presents us with a bumpy ride. When we are in relationship with God, or indeed, those around us who Jesus has sent us to share our life's journey, we live on the crests. But when our blind, self-centred ways creep back in, it is time to take stock. Learn from the old and seek new life in Jesus.