

**OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA, WEYMOUTH**  
**HOMILY FOR 28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**  
**CHILDREN'S MASS**  
**15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

People sometimes ask: "What is heaven like?"

As only Jesus has been there we have to ask him and those people to whom God has given a vision of heaven.

The prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament had the vision that we heard about in our first reading.

He described heaven as a perfect party with the best food and drink and nothing to spoil it – no sorrow, no tears.

Jesus supports Isaiah in our Gospel.

He, in the Gospel, described heaven as a special party, wedding party.

And who will be there?

We are not to know exactly who will be there, that God's secret, but Jesus does tell us that absolutely everyone is invited. No one is left out.

There is a place for each of us and God wants us to fill our place.

God invites us all; but some refuse to go.

People who do not go to heaven are those who choose not to go.

Of course, when we go to parties, especially wedding parties, we should be properly dressed, and God expects us to have prepared for his party by helping him do good things and spread his love in our world.

This parable or teaching story tells us much about God.

It tells us that God wants to fill heaven not just with angels but with us.

Just as we cannot invite ourselves to a party, God has to invite us, so heaven is a gift from God and God gives us all that we need to get ready for the party.

God gives us the Bible, prayer, Holy Communion, the Sacraments, the Church, holy people, parents, teachers and friends to help us. All is given, all is a gift.

First Holy Communion children have been thinking of themselves as a gift from God for so they are; we all are.

Our lives our bodies, minds and souls are God's gift.

I hope that you, children, who are preparing for Holy Communion which is like a meal, can see why you need to prepare carefully for this special gift.

Jesus' story of heaven as a wedding party tells us something more about God and us.

Normally a person only invites friends to a party, so if God invites us God must think of us as friends.

This is exciting. God is all powerful and could treat us like slaves, but, no, as Jesus says in St. John's Gospel, "I call you friends."

He invites us to know and love him, not fear him or ignore him.

All our liturgies in church and in school are intended to help us know God better through Jesus.

That's why we use the prayer of St. Richard in our Tuesday liturgies at school:

We pray to Jesus as our *friend* and *brother* and ask that we may know him more clearly and follow him more nearly to his heavenly party to which every Mass and Holy Communion are steps along the way.

**Rev Geoffrey Carey**