

## **FAITH IN ACTION**

Can you guess my favourite TV programme? No, it's not the news: that often seems so depressing! No, it's The Simpsons, and the other day they showed a classic, the one where Marge had a breakdown and went to a therapist for advice. But it was a bad therapist. He told her just to do what she felt like doing. Instead of doing what's right and good, he said: just DO WHAT YOU FEEL LIKE. So she did. And there was chaos. The whole of Springfield had a 'Do What You Feel Like' Day. So someone let the animals out of the Zoo. Principal Skinner punched his mother, and Homer ate so many doughnuts he had to go to hospital. It was chaos. Everyone ended up fighting, all because someone had told them not to do what's right and good, but to DO WHAT YOU FEEL LIKE.

Let me come back to this in a moment. Because it's really special to have all of you here today. We're here for the Good Shepherd Mass, with teachers, staff and students from all over the diocese here in the Cathedral to thank and praise God for all he has done for us. This is a special year, as it says on the front of the booklets. It's the Year of Faith when we are praying for a deeper faith in God and when we are trying to put that faith into action, especially in our care for the poor and needy. The Jesus we love in the Mass is the Jesus we love in the poor, and the Jesus we love in the poor is the Jesus we love in the Mass. Indeed, in a few moments, there will be a Procession of Alms when each school will present a card to represent what was raised in Lent for the needs of the poor. I know you have been incredibly generous. Well done! And thanks be to God!

Feelings. WHEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH COMES, HE WILL LEAD YOU TO THE COMPLETE TRUTH Jesus said in today's Gospel. The Church at the moment is preparing for Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit came down on Mary, Peter and the Apostles. It was the day the mission of the Church began as they rushed out to tell everyone the Good News of Jesus. This is why at this time of the year, we pray for the Holy Spirit ourselves. We pray Jesus to send the Holy Spirit into our hearts. We pray: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; enkindle within us the fire of your Love. You know, the Holy Spirit is very influential on our feelings. Just think of all the different feelings you have in a day: joy, peace, and happiness. Sadness, pain, and hurt. Boredom, worry and

excitement. There are literally thousands of feelings. You can't help them. But what matters is what you do with them. A good person isn't one who just does what he feels like. A good person is one who chooses to do what is right and good. For this we need education. The purpose of education is to train our feelings, to help us reject what's bad, and instead, to help us desire what's right and good. In a word, a good person is the one who wants what Jesus wants. This is why we need the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts, to influence our feelings, and to move us in the right direction.

COME HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL; ENKINDLE WITHIN US THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE. So in this Mass, let us turn to the Heart of Jesus full of love for us. Let us pray for a deeper, more personal, more passionate love for Jesus Christ in our lives. In this Year of Faith, let us pray for a deeper faith, rejecting what is bad and choosing what is good. In this way our faith will be put into action.