

Fr Kevin Dillon - HOMILY DATED 24.02.2019

Quite some years ago there was a legendary American football coach by the name of Vince Lombardi. Even now he's well known. not just in the US but Australia and many other places, because he was the coach of the team called the Green Bay Packers, which was a bit like if a scratch team from Rowville getting together and winning the AFL premiership. Nothing wrong with Rowville, of course, but it wasn't a big place, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

One of the key elements of how he approached his players and got the best out of them - and it became a bit of a saying that became well known, even in business – was, 'making the second effort.'

He got his players to recognise that they should get in and have a go and if that didn't work, then have another go. It wasn't just perseverance it was really working themselves up to do the very best that they could.

Looking at the Gospel tonight, it's the Gospel of making the second effort, of recognising what we can do when we really set out to, and recognising that anything we do for others, on any level, will never go unrewarded. It's great motivation. When we're tired or run down or have had enough, Jesus says, have another go because whatever you give will never go unrewarded.

Some time ago we had a look from a parish perspective of having a renewal of the thanksgiving program, but it was deferred to this week. The Gospel reading that we got couldn't have been a better one, because essentially it says, we are gathered here as people who believe in Jesus and Jesus says that whatever you do, whatever you can manage, whatever you can give – and that's not just in dollar terms – you will never go unrewarded. At other times, he said that we will be rewarded many times over.

The whole notion of approaching thanksgiving, financial, monetary matters can be a tough one. I can't tell you how many times over the years I've heard – 'You go to church, and they're always talking about money'. Absolute rubbish. We probably have a need to address it once maybe every four or five years. It's been three years since it was even mentioned here at the thanksgiving program of 2016 and the response has been very good and has maintained a pretty good level over all.

The Finance Committee or Parish council are going to say a few words at every mass at this weekend because the reality is that in order to do what we do and achieve what we achieve

and do for others what we try to do, we've all got to pitch in and do our best. It's not a matter of being unreasonable or not recognising the fact that there are many calls on your generosity and what you can do, not just in the parish, but even in the context of the parish where things can look okay but it's still a bit of a struggle.

The key thing that we do over these next couple of weeks is to give you a report / overview of what's happening, what we hope to do and ask you to do what you can.

I'm conscious of the fact that people on Light FM will be listening to this, but we've decided to let it go to air because the people who are listening to this, whether they are at home, or driving along or whatever, they are all a part of the parish too, so the basic principles that we put down are there for you too, in your own place, for us to all do the best that we can.