

*No confession brings perfection.  
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No programme accomplishes the Church's mission.  
No set of goals includes everything.*

*This is what we are about:  
We plant seeds that one day will grow.  
We water the seeds already planted, knowing that the future holds promise.  
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that;  
this enables us to do something and do it very well.  
We may never see the results, but that is the difference  
between the Master Builder and the workers.  
We are workers, not the Master Builder,  
ministers, not the Messiah.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.*

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## Reflection for the Week: 25<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> May, 2020

### Planting, watering and growing...

In the following text, Paul is making the point that Christians may for a time be involved in the work that God is doing, but we should be mindful that the project always belongs to God and it is God who enables the Kingdom to grow.

***What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. For we are God's fellow-workers; you are God's field, God's building.***

I Corinthians 3: 5-9

It is easy to become discouraged when we look at the overwhelming needs of the world. There are so many calls on our time. How can we ever accomplish the many duties and tasks we feel we ought to be doing to justify our membership of the Kingdom of God?

Fortunately, God does not look at things this way. None of us can *save the world* because Jesus has already done it, and because we are not, ultimately, in control of the universe. This is not to suggest that God welcomes inertia. On the contrary, God wants us to partner with Him in the work that we can do – appropriately and with the knowledge of our human limitations.

Recent conversations with parishioners and colleagues alike have revealed certain themes: 'helplessness' and 'wanting to do more', fear about what the future will look like, fear of reintegrating, concern for people who are yet to master the art of the video conference, concern for those who are taken ill at this time, anxiety about caring for the most vulnerable.

The underlying question is always the same: What can *we do*?

Sometimes the answer is: Not a lot. Let it go and give it to God.

Below is a quote from **Archbishop Oscar Romero**. He says what I really want to say, but with far more eloquence:

*It helps now and then to step back and take the long view.  
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.  
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise which is God's work.  
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying  
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.  
No statement says all that should be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith.*