

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, 17/7/201, Holy Trinity
Matthew 13:24-33, 36-43

In one of the "Peanuts" comic strips, Lucy explains to her little brother Linus about the existence of good and evil. She tells him that he, like others, have inside them two forces. Linus looks at his stomach with a distressed look on his face and declares, "I can feel them in there fighting."

It is a funny strip but true.

If we turn to another character Harry Potter who discovers that one of his greatest battles is internal, within himself and that within others there is a mixture of good and evil.

This morning's newspapers, news items on the radio or television tell of good and evil fighting it out in the world.

This is happening from the highest level down through society to the individual, to you and me.

There is a force that works against what is good, what is God.

It seeks to suck the lifeblood out of everything that is good, of everything that promotes peace and joy in the world.

Make no mistake; the fight still goes on in every aspect of life.

In this morning's Gospel reading Jesus paints a picture of evil weeds growing alongside of the good wheat, the good grain with the roots intertwining so that it is difficult to distinguish one plant from the other and to remove the weeds, the evil, would mean that the wheat, the good, would be removed at the same time.

How did the weeds get into the paddock?

Jesus simply says that an enemy has sown the weeds.

This is the enemy of God, of the good, that equates to the Devil or Satan, the evil.

This is the fight that each person in the world must face; the fight between good and evil within themselves.

This especially applies to us and to all others who have been baptised.

It was in our baptism that we promised to renounce evil and to fight against it wherever we may find evil.

Perhaps fight is the wrong word to use here.

In Jesus' story this morning the farmer allows the wheat and the weeds to grow together until the harvest when he reaps the good and destroys the evil.

Maybe this is telling us to spend less time worrying about the evil and spending more time promoting the good, promoting its growth and putting the good to work as Jesus' values would have us do within the Kingdom of God.

This, however, would not be popular against the complex workings of the world in which we live.

Such an approach goes against every instinct that we feel and against history as we read it.

To follow the teaching of this parable seems crazy and impossible.

Yet it has been done by people like Martin Luther King in America and Gandhi in India and, of course, Jesus himself.

Jesus, dying on the cross did not attempt to destroy his enemies; rather he forgave them and looked to God to sort it out in the end.

In Jesus' resurrection we have the truth of the parable of the wheat and the weeds.

It is in the power of the Resurrection that we can concentrate our efforts on the good and leave the sorting out of the evil to God.

Let us then, nurture the good within ourselves and within the world in the strength of the power that God gives us.

Remember the Good News that Jesus gave us "I am with you always".

It is in the power of that presence that we nurture the good and abandon the evil.

