

## **Bulletin Reflection 2021.10.10. Year B1. Week 28. Ordinary Time.**

### Find your riches in Christ

“Inside a 12 million dollar newly built modern castle...” This was the title of the video which YouTube recently recommended to me. At first it made me wonder if the tech giants have somehow gained an insight into my past after all their online activity tracking. For admittedly in my younger days, an uber-luxurious mansion was precisely what I would fancy. Unlike the Gospel’s young rich man, though, I was young but far from being rich. Yet my apparent lack of material wealth did little to quell a thirst for worldly happiness. Likewise, I used to sympathise with this young man, who struggled to transfer his most prized treasures from earth to heaven so walked away sad.

If only the internet was invented a few decades early, countless hours would have been spent previewing the opulent lifestyle I wished for. So perhaps it was by Providence that the Artificial Intelligence’s algorithm only caught up with me in 2021. Not that I am completely unworldly now – in fact, far from it – as these days, temporal attachments are a lot more subtle but nevertheless an ongoing struggle. Still, even as my gaze was initially drawn to the exorbitant display of affluence, by the end of the viewing I couldn’t help but notice a hollow sentiment. For the joy of this ‘modern castle’ was bound to wane and much of its excess spaces become idle. Worse yet, even for a family, separated and self-sufficient, they would be less likely to meet or communicate unless necessary. Ironically, then, what was thought to bring happiness could end up achieving the exact opposite. Perhaps this isn’t immediately evident, judging by the number of views and likes on the said video clip. But upon reflection, it would serve as a reminder that worldly pleasures are ultimately fleeting and empty.

Indeed, earthly riches will not lead to genuine and lasting happiness. Likewise, Jesus’ advice to the rich young man was by no means harsh or unreasonable. In fact, the Lord was doing the lad a favour, attempting to rescue him from meaningless luxuries so he may instead enjoy the prize of eternal life. After all, was this not what the young man had asked for: “Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” The Lord responded truthfully: “Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” In other words, above all be attached to Christ and follow him. For only in him you shall find true, eternal happiness.