

Homily for The St Marylebone CE School

Harvest and St Michael and All Angels School Eucharist 30.ix.19

At the end of September each year, Christians celebrate Michaelmas. That is St Michael and All Angels. Today we celebrate Harvest *and* the Feast of the Angels together because they happen to fall together this year. Angels of course are God's messengers.

Angel – 'angelos' in Greek – means *messenger*. We are all called to be angels too - messengers. And I don't mean don a pair of fairy wings and a tin foil halo and start floating around. Although that would be very funny. I mean – who's messenger are you? Because you're somebody's.

The job of the angels is to be God's messengers. Our job is to be messengers too. Messengers of God's mercy. Messengers of His love, goodness, His kindness, tenderness, strength and justice. We think especially about justice at Harvest. Just political, economic, industrial and agricultural systems.

And if we're not messengers of these things of God, what message is our life giving? And I don't mean just what we say, although that too. But our body language, in school, at home, on the streets and in our communities. Where we spend our money. That's a good question for Harvest-time. Who and what we notice. Where we spend our time, our energy. Now, and where we see our life going in the next year, few years, and our life as a whole.

Seen together, moment by moment and the whole thing; what does your life *say*? What do you want it to say? *Who's messenger are you?* You may be sitting there thinking, 'well I'm just me'. Look again more closely and you'll see that knowingly or not your life is speaking for a whole load of things.

Is your life and *will your life be* a message of God's hope, faith, justice and mercy to all? Or does it speak of obsession with things – technology, clothes, stuff, money. *That* of course would be to be a messenger of insecurity, a messenger of an inability to see beyond temporary things, a messenger in support of slave labour in factories producing cheap clothes, of unjust wages for tech factory workers, a messenger of western bosses who get richer and richer. These are the questions that Harvest and the Angels ask us today. Is your life a message of care for the environment or care-less consumption?

Is your life a message of kindness and care against the odds? Or is yours a message of attitude and superiority; that is to say, a messenger of thinly disguised fear that lies behind all such masks?

Moment by moment and looking at our whole lives. Words and body language. Where we put our money, time, energy. Whose messenger will you be? What does, what will your life *say*?

The angels depicted in the apse in our School's church can see God, as we on this side of death cannot. And because they can see God as God is, they know that He is the most important and truest of all. They are 'lost in wonder, love and praise', and all else but God has fallen away – grey and disinteresting by comparison. They invite us, falteringly as is the case on this side of eternity, to begin the same adventure. Now *that's* a message worth living for.