



Sunday 20th March 2022

My dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings to you and your dear families this third week of Lent.

We are now half way through our Lenten journey and I hope that this time of prayer and reflection is being fruitful for you. I was most humbled by the news this week on the return of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori, the two British Iranians that have finally been released from Iran.

This story captivated my heart many years ago and I have intently watched the plight of these families and immense efforts that these families have made to get their loved ones released. This week that hard work and determination finally paid off. I cannot begin to imagine what these souls went through let alone their families. The most poignant moment was that a little girl was finally reunited with her mummy that has been absent most of her life. As always, I have a short story to share with you which encapsulates my thought for the week.

There once was a poor boy who spent his days going door-to-door selling newspapers to pay for school. One day, as he was walking his route, he started feeling low and weak. The poor boy was starving, so he decided to ask for food when he came to the next door.

The poor boy asked for food but was denied every time, until he reached the door of a girl. He asked for a glass of water, but seeing his poor state, the girl came back with a glass of milk. The boy asked how much he owed her for the milk, but she refused payment.

Years later, the girl, who was now a grown woman, fell sick. She went from doctor to doctor, but no one was able to cure her. Finally, she went to the best doctor in town.

The doctor spent months treating her until she was finally cured. Despite her happiness, she was afraid she couldn't afford to pay the bill. But, when the hospital handed her the bill, it read, 'Paid in full, with a glass of milk.'

The moral of this story - no good deed goes unnoticed. All the sacrifices we make in this life is for a reason even if we cannot see it. What is done with a good and pure heart will surely come to pass and yield an abundant harvest. This week I invite to go out and share your goodwill with others and your community, knowing that your repayment will come in time. All the good you do will not be in vain for our God is a good God and he sees everything, even all the good deeds we performed in secrets.

May you and your families continue to receive the almighty blessings of God. We remain united in love and prayer for one another. As always, I wish you a blessed and peaceful week ahead.

Yours affectionately,

Rev Fr Nicholas Nwanzi