

FR HUGH'S EASTER HOMILY 2024



This is just a story, sort of a parable, for today about what Jesus has done for us.

So there was an old Chinese man who had a lovely garden that he spent all his days looking after. Everyone admired it. At the centre of this garden was his most treasured plant which was a great big bamboo tree.

Every day he would go into the garden in the evening and gaze at the tree and loved it when the wind blew and the tree waved his branches and the tree knew that his master loved him.

One evening the master came to the tree and said, "I am going to have to cut off your branches, but it is up to you, it is your decision." The bamboo thought long and hard about this but in the end he decided that if the master really needed his branches he must need them badly as he knew he loved him.

So next day he said to his master, "You can cut off my branches." But the master said, "The problem is that I need more than just your branches, I want to cut you down completely. I love you as much as ever, so if you don't want me to do this, I won't."

The bamboo was really hurt when he heard this, and thought perhaps his master did not love him after all. But thinking again he knew that his master did love him and must have a good reason, so he said 'yes.'

Then the master said "I not only want your branches and cut you down, but I want to split you in two as well and take out your heart. But if you don't want me to I won't because I still love you."

The bamboo was really shocked and hurt at this, and for days and days he struggled with this. He thought about his lovely place in the garden and all the admiration he had.

But he knew his master loved him and in the end he allowed his master to do it.

The bamboo was cut down and stripped of its branches and cut in two and its soft centre cleared out.

The beloved master and the families he looked after had rice fields they looked after, but there had been a great drought. There was water far away but they could not reach it.

The master laid the cut bamboo lengthwise until it reached the water and it carried plentiful water to all the rice fields and the people could grow their rice and survive the drought and live on.

It's not often Jesus is a bamboo, but what he did was give his life for us out of love, so that we could live.