

He planted a vineyard

A vineyard was planted, servants were sent, more were sent. The son was sent, even after death
God did not give up.

It is not just patience, it is endurance that is in the image and likeness.

It was a massive disappointment to me this year to have missed the Olympics. Every four years I am
amazed at the Olympiads and para-Olympiads.

Usually, I watch maybe the semi-final, or even just the final. A few minutes, or even a few seconds
and the event is over and the focus on the medals.

These are the glory moments.

Before this comes the parents driving the enthusiastic child to meetings, training, competitions.

There are the hard choices made, at ages before wisdom,

There are the periods of injury

The defeats and disappointments

The development of mental stamina

The endurance of pain

The recognition of flattery as opposed to growth

The days and weeks and years

Which will have their rewards in many forms

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Every parent will tell you they want their best for the child.

Like the priest have the joy of witnessing the pride in the baptism.

Before this the fear as the rash appeared, that meant panic and eventually nothing

The exhaustion as the needs multiply

The frustration as the child learns values by example

The joy of adolescence

The guilt of disappointment

The anger at defiance

The stepping back and letting go in competition with partners

The loving without control
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The covid crisis struck and we were asked to isolate
I as a priest have witnessed the kindness of donations, the efforts of front line professions.
There were the commitments made as the summer sun shone and the quarantine seemed limited
But the rainbows have faded
Now we must be careful with money
See beyond the crisis of unemployment
Remain diligent as guidelines change and confuse
Recognise the blessings of enough, and time
Draw out our reserves of hope and feed those in in need of joy
From a telephone or through a window
These efforts will have their rewards in many forms
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You are the people of God
Whatever your situation now is a time of witness
When all is well it is easy to show your love
Now is a time for endurance
That is an image of our God

