

Readings: Zechariah 9: 9-19; Romans 8: 9, 11-13; Matthew 11: 25-30



Fr Michael says:

Come to me, all you who labour

Jesus shares with us how He feels when He has been rejected by His own People in Nazareth, and He turns to His Father, to explore what has happened, in prayer with Him. Jesus' message is only taken on by those who are childlike and can see through to the essential message that is being offered, ignoring what might block it or close us into stereotypes of judgment. How are we to react to this situation when it occurs in our lives? Jesus invites us to enter into His mind, heart and life, as true disciples. It is for this reason that Zechariah sees the messianic king in the form of a humble and gentle champion of peace for all peoples. Paul in his presentation of what true life is underlines the same message: from where are we seeking inspiration for our decisions and choices in life? We need to be rooted in the spirit and not ruled by the flesh!

We are invited into intimacy with Jesus, to discover who He really is: we are not just gathering facts about Him and saying we know Him in that way. We need to have a relationship with Him to discover who He is for us and how we can grow with and through His loving support. It appears that in America, the person who is most seen, whose name is used most often for giving names to Schools, institutions, streets etc. is George Washington. However his name is not in people's hearts because in reality he was a very private person and did not share himself easily with others.

How do we see God? As the Eye seeing and knowing all things, ready to correct, from the distance, judging us ever ready to punish? How different it is with Jesus, who relates to His Father and He to Him so wonderfully and thus Jesus can share His Father with us, once we enter into relationship with Him! We are invited to be open and look with wonder and awe, as do children! God is revealed as compassionate,, forgiving and loving, passionately interested in us, who only wants to heal and save.

Jesus is rejected by the intellectuals; they think they know it all: their pride blocks them seeing Him fully! The simple are open and closer to God. They are aware that He is especially close to the weak, poor and over burdened – hence Jesus' invitation at the end of the Gospel.

If faith is only in the head, it becomes cold, God is distant, aloof – we need our hearts to see the real God whom Jesus is presenting to us. It is here that we can draw the waters and be truly refreshed.

Jesus says to us: "Come to me!" but we often reply: "I'm not worthy!" or "I'm afraid!" or "I'm too proud!" "I've no appointment!" "I have not got time now. So many excuses... but Jesus persists: "Come to me!" I fall silent. "Come... sit down...takes the weight off your feet. Sit here in the shade of a tree, refresh yourself as at a running stream. Here you will find rest, find peace...Indeed your burden will become easy and your yoke will be easy."