



**Readings: Isaiah 22: 19-23; Romans 11: 33-36; Matthew 16: 13-20**

### The wonder of God

**Fr Tom says:**

*How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge! says Saint Paul.*

With people we love, we don't seek to understand everything they ask of us, we respond spontaneously because we want to give the best of ourselves to them. We trust that they want the best for us too. It is only when we begin to question and doubt people (mistrust) that we journey into wanting to know the whys and the wherefores. In fact, it is in the doing and acting together that greater understanding is realised. We see things we had not seen before, discover new riches and uncover some of the treasures that lie dormant in ourselves. Made in the image of God, we are, all of us, goldmines or treasure houses, so full of riches and wonders that it will take a life-time to discover them all and use them in ways that will enrich the world and give testimony to the greatness of God. Although we cannot add to God's glory or increase God in any way, we can give better testimony to God's greatness and we CAN give delight by following God's way out of love: *give glory to God forever!*

When Peter testified, confidently, that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, he did not fully understand what that meant – (a moment later he is castigated by Jesus because he did not want him to endure suffering). So, we move in good company.

Living our faith is more of an exploration or even an adventure of discovery, than a journey. We will discover God in the most unlikely places, in the lives of the people we encounter – even those struggling with life, in the day to day experiences and encounters with others. This is why nature is so important; it opens up new wonders for us every day. Earlier this year farmers had fields and orchards flooded. All seemed lost. But today they are experiencing bumper crops and harvests. We see plants growing out of rock faces or the walls of your house. How important it is to safeguard and promote our natural habitat? Its unpredictability and ability to grow through the impossible is one of the greatest parables of God's kingdom.

St Augustine, as you know, discovered God in everything after his conversion and proclaimed throughout his confessions (and his Life) the wonder and goodness of God. For this he was truly thankful. He encouraged everyone to reflect on their day and end it by thanking God for the good things that had happened (even on the most disastrous and horrific of days). He wanted to encourage people to see how close God was to them (all the time). Even if the Day ahead presents you with impossible challenges, it will always, always, teach you about the wonder and goodness of God. So, before you think about the challenges, wake up saying. "*What wonders of God will I experience today?*" We cannot add to the glory of God but we can come to understand and appreciate God better!