

Reflection for Saturday 3rd Week of Easter 2020

You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.' John 6

Believing and living what one believes can be very different things. Not everyone believes Pope Francis is fulfilling his role as the Lord's anointed. Be that as it may, we all share the same belief. The fact that we have doubts, sometimes serious doubts, is not in question. It is how we respond to those doubts that is important. For the great saints, these times of doubt were called **the dark night of the soul** and could go on for years. But they remained faithful throughout. Maybe, we will never fully understand the significance of Jesus being the Light unless we have visited and spent some time in this land of darkness, of doubt. Our creation offers us help with this. We have only to live a few days through a period of heavy grey clouds covering the sky, with intermittent showers, to fully appreciate the joy and uplift we get when the sun finally returns. All the colours seem more vivid, more vibrant with energy and life and it feels good to be alive. As we read the acts of Apostles at this time it would seem that, wherever the apostles went, they brought sunshine and life to all those they encountered. They knew it was not their sunshine or their life they were bringing but the sunshine and life of Jesus Christ. Where we might speak of aura, charisma, of presence, of reassurance, of affirmation, Jesus sums this up in reference to the Holy Spirit. And we are all gifted with the Holy Spirit and we bring that same Spirit, with his many gifts and qualities, with us wherever we go and have only to let him work his miracles through us. These miracles happen so often during this time of lockdown, we know the Spirit is alive and well. St Athanasius, an Egyptian patriot, was a beacon of light and hope and for orthodoxy in the 4th Century. A great theologian who doggedly opposed Arianism, that taught that Jesus was not fully divine.

Listen to his wisdom and experience the light that shines from it:

"Jesus became what we are so that he might make us what he is."

"Christ was made man that we might be made God."

"For the Lord touched all parts of creation, and freed and undeceived them all from every deceit."

"For, indeed, everything around us is marvellous, and, wherever a man turns his gaze, he sees the Godhead of the Word and is smitten with awe."

"The Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering men. For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholders. But Jesus, who came to heal and to teach the way, did not come merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed him, and to manifest himself in such a way that they would be open to receive it, not damaging the value of his divine appearing by exceeding their capacity to receive it."

A groaner:

I took the shell off my racing snail the other day. But it only made him more **sluggish!!!!**

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A GUMMY BEAR!!!!