

## Reflection for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> week of Easter

Jesus tells us today that, in following his way, living his life and living the truth, we should look beyond the obvious, beyond what we see. This could be called awareness, or what others call mystery. Think of a chap who is the father of a family, an accountant and also a football player. If you meet him on the football pitch you are aware that he is a footballer, you might also be aware that he is the father of a family. It would not be obvious that he was an accountant unless he had told you. Throughout his life Jesus continually tried to teach people to look beyond the obvious. Rather than a set of rules, the commandments are all about loving God and loving neighbour. Seeing Jesus as a light, a shepherd or a vine are ultimately experiences we have of Jesus that only become evident in his presence. John, in his Gospel, continually emphasises that Jesus and the Father are one. See Jesus – see the Father. See Jesus and the Father and experience the Holy Spirit. They are inseparable but not obvious at first sight. However, this awareness invites us to go further. Whenever we see people, see individuals, we should also see Jesus, the Father and the Spirit present within them. It is a presence expressed in many ways; through a sense of Goodness, of Joy, of Happiness, etc. etc. etc. In our daily outings of late, we have discovered the presence of the divine in the wonder of the countryside around us, the brightness of the flowers, especially the wild flowers which are more abundant of late. God is profligate with beauty – it is everywhere and it is overpowering. It makes this time a lockdown and very blessed time for us all. It will be vital that we carry this sense of the divine presence into the future after lockdown and the pandemic has been tamed. Being rejected by the Jews, Paul and his friends went to the pagans who welcomed the Good News with open hearts. Whatever evil decides to throw at us, God has a way of turning it into blessing. So, if asked what does the future hold for us, it is **Great Blessing!**

THE LITTLE FISH: *“Excuse me,”* said an ocean fish, *“You are older than I, so can you tell me where to find this thing they call the Ocean?”*

*“The Ocean,”* said the older fish, *“is the thing you are in now,”*

*“Oh, this? But this is water. What I’m seeking is the Ocean,”* said the disappointed fish as he swam away to search elsewhere. . . . .

The seeker came to the Master and said: *“For years I have been seeking God. I have sought God everywhere: on mountain peaks, in the vastness of the desert, the silence of the cloister and the dwellings of the poor.”*

*“Have you found him?”* the Master asked. *“No. I have not.”* said the seeker, *“Have you?”*

What could the Master say? The sun was sending shafts of golden light into the room. Hundreds of sparrows were twittering on a banyan tree. In the distance one could hear the sound of traffic. A bee was busily buzzing around looking for some nectar... And yet this seeker could sit there and say he had not found God. . . . .

**Something to think about** but listen carefully: **A man walks up to a librarian and asks, "Do you have any books on Pavlov's dogs and Schrödinger's cat?"**

The librarian responds, "It rings a bell but I'm not sure whether it's here or not."