

## Reflection for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter 2020

It is said that as one door closes another door opens. As the early Christians became more and more oppressed in Jerusalem, the Apostles and disciples were forced to venture into other lands where they found people ready and willing to be baptised and live the faith. Christians today live in difficult times. The doors of our churches are closed but our services continue to be celebrated and made available in various formats. The media claims that many more people are listening and sharing in on-line services than ever went to Church on a Sunday. Modern media has opened up an avenue that must continue to remain open after the lockdown. It is both reassuring and comforting to be told today by Jesus that we have been chosen by the Father who called us to be baptised. Jesus then adds that: *They, (that's you and me) will never be lost and that and no one will ever steal them (us) from me (Jesus). The Father who gave them to me (Jesus) is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. (Jn 10)* Therefore, we know that Jesus is close by and, where Jesus is, so is the Father and where the Son and the Father are there, too, is the Holy Spirit. In locking the doors of our churches, we are forced, like the Apostles and disciples, to look elsewhere for the presence of God and that means starting in our homes and in our countryside as we take our walks. The more aware we are of the presence of God the more likely we are to share that presence with others and especially with each other in the family. Be it in a smile or in laughter, in sorrow and sadness, or in a kind, helpful or caring word – and most of all to see God's presence in the eyes of those around us. The more we see that presence of God the more we will feel God's presence which will shape and mould the way we see the world, the people in it and creation itself.

Spring is always a great season. We see trees coming into bud, new growth in our fields, and young lambs frolicking in the fields. All around us new life is breaking forth imitating the new life of Easter which is yearning to break out within us. The lockdown offers us the time and opportunity to experience this blossoming of new life in the most marvellous of ways, showing us that we are truly an Easter people and that Alleluia is our song!

### **By the way:**

A man walks into a bar and sits down. He asks the bartender for a cigarette. The bartender replies, "Sure, the cigarette machine is over there." So, he walks over to the machine and as he is about to purchase a cigarette, the machine suddenly says, "*Oi, you stupid idiot.*" Surprised, the man says, "That's not very nice." He returns to the bar without a cigarette and asks the bartender for some peanuts. The bartender passes the man a bowl of peanuts and the man hears one of the peanuts say, "*Ooh, I do like your hair.*" The man says to the bartender, "Hey, what's going on here? Your cigarette machine has insulted me and this peanut is acting weird. Why is this?" The

bartender replies, "Oh, that's because the cigarette machine is **out of order** and the peanuts are **complementary**."