

Reflection for Tuesday 6th Week of Easter 2020 – St Dunstan.

The wisdom of God is both wondrously fascinating and yet simple. God sent his Son, Jesus, who is both human and divine. We are introduced to his divinity through his humanity. Once we recognise his divinity, however, Jesus introduces us to the Father and then he says they are one. See me, Jesus, he says, see the Father. And, in order to prepare us to encounter the Holy Spirit, Jesus has to leave us completely so that we are not overloaded with the divine. We are taken through a gradual process of understanding and welcoming God fully into our lives. What we learn from our Easter readings is that this inflow of God into us is what will help us bring others to welcome God into their lives beginning with the good news of Jesus Christ. In today's story from the Acts, God sent the help of an earthquake that led to the conversion of the gaoler and his family. We have the opportunity to recognise that God has sent us an earthquake in the form of the pandemic, and that we are called to reach out, as we do, in charity so that others too will hear the voice of God and be called to Christ. We know that Paul suffered severe hardships during his different missionary journeys but was never deterred. St Dunstan, on the other hand, lived in what is known as a golden age for church and country in the 10th Century. As King and Bishop worked well together, the whole nation benefitted. But, it was a golden age because both Dunstan and the King worked hard for it out of love for God and love for the people. Would that governments and Church could work with the same trust and selfless love. Then, we, too, could be living in a golden age!!!!

Malcom Guite wrote the following poem for the Transfiguration but it could apply to any golden moment or event in which we experience the presence of the divine or when we are blessed with a glimpse of who people really are:

For that one moment, 'in and out of time',
on that one mountain where all moments meet;
the daily veil that covers the sublime
in darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
There were no angels full of eyes and wings,
just living glory full of truth and grace.
The Love that dances at the heart of things
shone out upon us from a human face.
And to that light, the light in us leaped up,
we felt it quicken somewhere deep within;
a sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
trembled and tingled through the tender skin.
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar
eclipse that glimpse of how things really are!

Not another story?????

Two salesmen knocked on the door of a woman who was not happy to see them. She told them in no uncertain terms that she did not want to hear their offer and slammed the door in their faces. To her surprise, however, the door did not close and, in fact, bounced back open. She tried again, really put her back into it, and slammed the door again with the same result - the door bounced back open. Convinced these rude salesmen were sticking their foot in the door, she reared back to give it a slam that would teach them a lesson, when one of the men pleaded: "Excuse me madam but before you do that again, you better move your cat!"