

Reflection Saturday Week 13 –2020

With the pubs and restaurants reopening today, there will be many sampling the wines. One hopes they do not overdo it with their new freedom. As the psalmist will say, wine gladdens the heart, lifts the spirit, inspires hope and brings a “*Je ne sais pas quoi!*” to a meal. The new wine Jesus refers to today cannot fit into lives that have no room for expansion, for the new. It needs lives ready for change, for unimaginable newness. It demands dropping the old self, even self-emptying and opening ourselves with complete trust and confidence in whatever Jesus fills us with; being able to respond with all our hearts and lives; our whole being. It makes one thrill with excitement at the thought! This has nothing to do with age. It just demands courage, a spirit of adventure and a desire for something new. Jesus will never let us down. This new wine is not some passing experience, it is continuous, as Malcolm Guite says, Jesus seeps into our lives and through prayer, action and the sacraments his presence grows and grows and grows within. From tomorrow, although we cannot receive the wine, we will receive the host, the Body and Blood of Christ. Be ready for a new explosion within you. And, for those who gather with us spiritually, you too will share in this explosion of new life.

Malcolm Guite:

This bread is light, dissolving, almost air,
a little visitation on my tongue,
a wafer-thin sensation, hardly there.
This taste of wine is brief in flavour, flung
a moment to the palate's roof and fled,
even its aftertaste a memory.
Yet this is how He comes. Through wine and bread
love chooses to be emptied into me.
He does not come in unimagined light
too bright to be denied, too absolute
for consciousness, too strong for sight,
leaving the seer blind, the poet mute;
chooses instead to seep into each sense,
to dye himself into experience.

For Liverpool fans:

Not many people know that Yul Brynner was an ardent Liverpool fan. We do know that he was very proud of his bald head. He shaved it regularly preferring oil rather than after-shave. That is why “*Yul never wore cologne*”