

Reflection Saturday Week 22 – St Cuthbert 2020

St Paul writes to the Corinthians with whom he was having a hard time. *“When we are cursed, we answer with a blessing; when we are hounded, we put up with it; we are insulted and we answer politely. We are treated as the offal of the world, still to this day, the scum of the earth.”* Not sure I could accept all this except giving a blessing and being polite. Being polite speaks of dignity, respect and reverence for others no matter who they are, what they have done; whether they like or hate us. Yet we know that Jesus was always polite and treated people with dignity which helped them recognise his authority. All of us are able to bless in Jesus name not just priests, bishops, religious or the Pope; all of us. So why do we not do it more often?? Blessing someone evokes the presence of God within them. A presence that will work in its own way but always as God knows best. So, if you do not bless others, begin to do so now. You don't need to tell God what to do just invoke his name and let the grace and power of God work in those you bless. **One of the blessings** we have neglected for too long, even abused cruelly, is the blessing creation offers us. IONA prayers . . .

Every creature, every plant, every rock and grain of sand proclaims the glory of its Creator; worships through colour, shape, scent and form. A multi-sensory song of praise. Creator God, may we join with the whole of your creation, in praising you, our Creator, through the fragrance and melody of our lives. This world, Your creation, rolled into a sphere, packaged in sunshine, gift-wrapped in love, given to us. Thank you.

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts, that the God who breathed this world into being, placed stars into the heavens and designed a butterfly's wing, is the God who entrusted his son to the care of ordinary people, became vulnerable that we might know how strong is the wonder of Love. A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp. A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.

Every time we act to heal creation, recycle, live more simply, cut down on waste, use less plastic etc, etc, we will be blessed by creation; and what a wonderful, awe-inspiring blessing it is!!

Baptism a new creation . . .

*A chap was baptised by being dipped three times into the baptismal water: After the third dip, the Priest said: "You are now baptized, you are a new creation. The old one is gone, no more drinking of alcohol for you. Your new name is John." John returns home and goes straight to the fridge. He takes out a Beer, dips it 3 times into some water and says: "You are now a new creation, the old one is gone. Your new name is **Green Tea!**"*