

Reflection Friday Week 29 – 2020

Interpreting the times may well have been difficult in Jesus's day but it is much more difficult today despite all the advances in technology. More often than not we can have four seasons in a day if not over a few weeks. Moving from one extreme to the other and back again. The climate emergency is viewed in many different ways especially by politicians and governments. Some look at the world and different situations in terms of economic gain and make decision that not only harm the environment but also the society they are elected to help and sustain. Pope Francis has recently stated publicly that he believes same sex partnerships should be protected by law, and people are claiming and accusing him of things he neither said or implied. Yes, it is difficult to interpret the times.

The current pandemic has caused all sorts of major difficulties, especially in mental health. Yet there have also been many blessings. The generosity of people has shown the inherent good will among people. The rich have been very supportive. The number of groups that have sprung up offering food to the needy has been colossal. Groups have often been brought together to support each other, thus strengthening the bonds within local communities. Social distancing has inspired greater respect for others, making it more difficult to take people for granted. The importance of friendship has been enriched and enhanced. We have become more aware of the importance of our natural surroundings and the therapeutic effect of gardening. Hardship has not only forced people to live more simply but shewn them that it is not so difficult and offers them great benefits. In reaching out to others, we have discovered that they often help us more. Our perception of those less fortunate than ourselves, those on the fringes of society has changed for the better. We have been opened to the insights and riches they possess and are ready to share. All we need to do is stop and listen, welcome and affirm. We are discovering more clearly the image of God in others and therefore in ourselves. We have sought the face of God and discovered God's presence in so many ways.

You know what they're saying about 2020. **It went viral faster than anyone thought it would.**

Finland just closed its borders. You know what that means.

No one will be crossing the **finish** line.

My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, "*Throw this and wherever it lands—that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends.*" Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge.