

Reflection Thursday Week 31 - 2020

Having no people present again is harder this time - not easier. I have been part of many zoom meetings and the absence of people leaves a sense of loneliness and isolation. It is like looking at a jigsaw with a vital piece missing. Despite everything else being in place the focus is always on the missing piece. Although St Paul admits quite openly that he was one of the leading persecutors of the followers of Christ and now is one of its greatest advocates; it must have left him with the question of how he could have been so wrong in the past. That question must have given him the energy and self-sacrifice that made him such a great evangeliser. Because of this feeling of loss and absence, my prayer is that the Spirit and power of God will be all the stronger in your homes and your lives and give you greater energy to be people of good news and hope to all those you help and support.

The Gospel today was obviously written for you. Those who were rejected, the position you are now in, were welcomed by Jesus and he reassures you today, as he did then, that there is great rejoicing for you in heaven. The Father, the Son and the Spirit are with you in a very special way because you share in this Mass along with all those who wish to be here with us but cannot. Yes, you are specially blessed. I hope and pray that you become aware of this special blessing and rejoicing of God in you in the days ahead.

You can sing this if you know the melody (John B. Dykes)

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, Stoop down and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise, And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my Star, my Sun,
And in that Light of life I'll walk, Till traveling days are done.

- **Why was the horse so happy? Because he lived in a stable environment.**
- Two dogs are walking along a street. They are passed by a third dog driving a lorry load of logs. One turns to the other and says: *"He started by fetching a stick and built up the business from there."*