

Reflection Friday Advent Week 3 – 2020

The Gospel reminds us yet again that Jesus is **Emanuel** – *God with us*. God is with us always even when we are not with God. Jeremiah called God the Lord-of-integrity. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word translated as “*integrity*” means “*the condition of being without blemish, completeness, perfection, sincerity, soundness, uprightness, wholeness.*” Integrity in the New Testament means “*honesty and adherence to a pattern of good works.*” While the Dictionary says integrity is: *adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty. the state of being whole, entire, or undiminished; a sound, unimpaired, or perfect condition.* In common parlance we might call a person with integrity “*someone who has got it together*”; doesn’t make rash or foolish decisions; is upright and trustworthy; someone who offers a sense of security. Maybe the best way to understand a person with integrity is the person who is “*comfortable in their own skin*”, whose presence makes you feel comfortable in yours. If Jesus appeared to you and was recognisable as Jesus, how would you feel? How would you react? Wouldn’t you feel comfortable since Jesus is the *Lord-of-integrity*? In fact, Jesus would reach out his hand with a smile and a welcome, (although in the pandemic he would have to touch elbows!!) Our minds might well be filled with questions, yet, all that is needed is to welcome the presence and experience and if you could to hug him. Jesus personifies integrity and his presence will spark the integrity within us and set it on fire. Integrity is but one of the great gifts Jesus brings us this Christmas – and what a gift!!

Memory Awakens Hope: Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986

"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to us. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

After watching BBC, ITN, and Sky News - simultaneously - for nearly two days - a man decided he would hang himself in protest at the media's lack of integrity...

Thankfully he was unsuccessful because the rope broke.

He would most probably be dead right now if it was not for that ***fake noose***.