

Reflection Saturday Week 1 Advent 2020

Jesus reminds us that we have “*received without charge*” and tells us to “*give without charge.*” And we have been given much! It is too easy to think that priests and missionaries are the labourers of the harvest. All the baptised are numbered among the labourers of the harvest by virtue of their baptism. Hospitals, doctors and nurses are all healers of a physical kind and probably also offer some kind of spiritual healing as well. But we are healers too, whenever we give support to someone who is troubled or in distress; contacting someone who is lonely or isolated; even a smile and a greeting to a stranger you pass in the street can change their day for the better. Whenever you think that you have nothing to offer know that God wants to work through you and wherever you go and whoever you meet, you go as an instrument of God’s grace. Advent is a time to discover more and more how God can and does use us as instruments of his love, a love that bring healing and wholeness to those with whom we live and encounter along the way. The following reflections by John O’Donohue describe the feelings, thoughts and mind of a labourer of the harvest:

I would love to live like a river flows, carried by the surprise of its own unfolding.

One of the most beautiful gifts in the world is the gift of encouragement. When someone encourages you, that person helps you over a threshold you might otherwise never have crossed on your own.

There is a kindness that dwells deep down in things; it presides everywhere, often in the places we least expect. The world can be harsh and negative, but if we remain generous and patient, kindness inevitably reveals itself. Something deep in the human soul seems to depend on the presence of kindness; something instinctive in us expects it, and once we sense it, we are able to trust and open ourselves.

When one flower blooms spring awakens everywhere.

May I live this day compassionate of heart, clear in word, gracious in awareness, courageous in thought, generous in love.

- ***How do you harvest crops in the winter? With an ice sickle***
- ***My neighbour has a 15-acre farm. He breeds dogs to work on them. He grows cantaloupes, and come harvest time the dogs sniff out the ripe ones and bring them back to the barn. He calls his breed of dogs - Melon Collies!!!***