

Reflection Thursday Advent Week 2 – 2020

Reading Isaiah makes one think, *“If only it were true that the thirsty would have water, that desert land would be filled with trees, that dry unproductive land would become fully fertile.”* In fact, this is happening today as we speak, trees have been planted in desert places and flourished and the land has flourished along with it. Dry lands have been irrigated with water and sprung back to life. Evidence of this can be found in deserts in Europe, Asia and the Americas. In some cases, sea-water is used and, in the process, freshwater is provided for drinking as a consequence. It could be said that, rather than do all the work himself, God lets us do the work for him!! Isn't it good to think that, however barren our lives may be, the fruits of life: goodness, kindness, compassion and love and all that is beautiful in God's eyes still lies within us? In Advent we learn how desperately God wants to bring our barrenness to life by sending us his Son. Just as all plants need the power of natural light as well as water to develop and grow, the light of Christ will also nurture the fruits and blessings of our lives. Jesus confirms this in the gospel today telling us that we are greater than John the Baptist, who is the greatest of all the children born of women. Jesus bestows dignity and honour upon us in abundance. Let us respond by being heralds of good news and light up people's lives with the joy, goodness and love with which we have been blessed. The blessings of Advent are to be shared.

Father, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help us clear a pathway in our hearts, too. Lord, we await your coming! As we celebrate the first Advent - the first coming – we look toward the day when we will see you face to face. Give us hearts that look for your coming. Help us live our lives constantly seeking your presence. We offer our lives to you today as we do every day. Open our lives each day to the waters of your grace that refine, purify, and forgive. Give us the courage to let your life flow through us to our families, our friends and all those we encounter. This we ask in Jesus name. Amen

- Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. – I gave him a glass of water.
- If the formula of water is H₂O, then what is the formula of ice? H₂O cubed.
- How do you make a water bed bouncy? **Use spring water!**