

Reflection Monday 4th January Christmas season 2021

One of the endearing characteristics of Jesus is he never tries to persuade people to believe in him. *'Come and see!'* Jesus tells us, an invitation he offers us at the beginning of every New Year. *'Come and see how I am present, in your life, in the lives of others, in creation and the events that take place in your life.'* The film *'Pete's Dragon'* is a wonderful story about discovery of something most people believe does not exist – a dragon. In fact, the dragon has the power to disappear, to blend in completely with his surroundings. He touches the lives of those who are unafraid of him, welcome him as a friend, as family, and do not seek to harm or exploit him. For those who welcome him, it changes the way they see everything thereafter - their surroundings, the members of their families and their friends. Similarly, creation holds a mystery only too ready to reveal itself to you if you are open to it. In the discoveries we make, we will begin to understand better why the apostles and disciples followed Jesus. Although they still made mistakes, let Jesus down, misunderstood him, acted wrongly, being family, they knew deep down they could always come back; that they would always be forgiven and see things more clearly afterwards. The Lamb of God is close, always close. This year promises some wonderful and challenging encounters. Don't miss them.

The Presence of God (Victor P. Gendrano)

I see in every leaf movement, as playful breeze passes by
barely disturbing a nesting bird, the presence of God.

The mantle of teeming wildflowers adorning the once barren plain;
in the changing of the seasons, I feel the ever presence of God.

The ceaseless gurgling of the brook as it meanders down its way,
Cacophony of myriad nature's sounds announce the presence of God.

Laughter of innocent children playing in parks or backyard,
enjoying their uncomplicated simple world in the watchful presence of God.

Amidst life's tears and turmoil, many mishaps and miscalculations
I sought solace and found comfort in the loving presence of God.

In the hectic humdrum of daily living, fast-paced rat race for material gain,
insatiable yearning for more, make no room for the presence of God.

All the world's problems and woes are man-made, yet unacknowledged: religious wars
hate crimes, ethnic cleansing, violence conveniently ignoring the presence of God.

For in the presence of God, there is no hate, only brotherly love, peace, forgiveness
understanding, compassion, helping hand, no evil can withstand the presence of God.

What's the best gift a parent can give their child?

Presence!!!

A drunk walks into a church during mass and sits down. The priest is bothered by his presence and says to everybody: *"The drink is a terrible vice, so much so that a drunk man will never reach salvation. If any of you is inebriated, I ask you to stand up."*

The drunk man does, looks around at everybody seated and says: *"Well, I guess it's just the two of us, father!!"*

