

Reflection Friday Week 5 – 2021

Our story from Genesis today suggests that knowledge is not always a good thing, despite our appetite for more and more knowledge as the answer to all our problems. If anything, the story suggests the opposite. With the knowledge they acquired, Adam and Eve realised the full error of their sin and sought to hide themselves from God. Yet, the serpent, the evil one, told them they would have freedom!! Reminds you of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness where the devil promised Jesus the whole world if he submitted to the devil. Jesus would have lost everything as did Adam and Eve. Why do we continue to believe that we can out-think God?

Lent will soon be upon us. It offers us a wilderness opportunity to reflect on our lives and see what role God plays in it. Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is sent to guide, encourage and challenge us on our journey; to help us discover from what we wish to be set free.

The deaf and dumb man in the gospel certainly knew what healing he needed, and received back his hearing and his ability to speak. Our hearing and our speaking can lead us into many a difficulty in life. We believe we understand what people say to us but have completely misunderstood and subsequently said the wrong thing, even hurtful things, when we wanted to do the exact opposite. Similarly, we say things with good intentions and we are misunderstood and again cause upset. This is why knowledge, understanding and wisdom all go together. Wisdom the gift and the presence of the Holy Spirit is the guide we all need. The Holy Spirit is very active in Lent, so, Let the Spirit in. As the psalmist says: *“let every good man pray to you (Lord) in the time of need.* Lent offers us the time to do this.

When asked for his name by the coffee shop assistant, my brother-in-law answered, “Marc, with a C.” Minutes later, he was handed his coffee with his name written on the side: Cark.