

Reflection Saturday after Ash Wednesday 2021

The antiphon to the psalm summarises what we seek in this Lenten season: *“Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.”* Isaiah (58) is confident that God will be there for us when he writes. *“The Lord will always guide you, giving you relief in desert places.”* He calls us *Breach-menders*, another name for people who seek to heal wounds and *Restorers*, helping bring back the peace and beauty of broken relationships. Isaiah reminds us of the honour and delight available to us in celebrating God’s presence within us and around us. Lent is the time to recognise this more fully. The psalmist is also encouraging, *“O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice.”* Not only does the psalmist recognise our need for God but is fully confident that God will help and guide us if we call to him. What is so reassuring in the Gospel is that Jesus does not look at the externals - what we have done and are doing, nor at our failures, our lack of charity. No; Jesus looks at the heart and sees the potential for goodness and love. Jesus recognises that we can be *Breach-menders* and *Restorers* of what is good and wholesome. He sees in us our ability to be bearers of Good News just like St Luke; writing the Gospel every day, not so much on pages of a book but with our lives. Lent is the opportunity to fine tune the Gospel we write!!