

Reflection Tuesday Lent 1 – 2021

Isaiah speaking in God's name says: *"the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do."* *The word of God is spirit and life* (cf John 6:63) The Bible is the medium *par excellence* for conveying the spirit and life of God's word. Explanations, teaching, exegesis, exhortations on the scripture, however, are not the spirit and life of the word. The spirit and life of the word is pure gift from God. When you hold something precious in your hands, no explanation can describe the feeling it arouses in you. Lent is a time to read the scriptures of the day and spend time in quiet reflection afterwards. Later read them again and, if possible, read them for a third time before the day's end. Even when the reading makes no sense, stay with the scripture. Isaiah speaks in God's name when he says that the word of God will not return without it fulfilling its mission for you. Many have written reflections on the readings of each day; each offers one picture among many of what the writer has found through reflection. The word of God, however, has a special meaning and a special gift particularly for each of us. What is more, each time we return to reflect on that scripture, next year or even next week, it will have another gift for you. The spirit and life of scripture is ever changing, ever new, just like God's love for us. Jesus' prayer to the Father helps us put ourselves into the right disposition so as to allow the Father to speak to our hearts. It invites us to lay ourselves open to the bread, healing and help that we need to truly glorify God and allow his word to nourish us with spirit and life.