

Reflection Friday Lent 2 – 2021

Today we are reminded of the evils of jealousy towards Joseph and Jesus. We are also reminded that Jesus is the Keystone, the one who holds all things together. The Joseph story shows us that, however badly treated we may be, God can turn that evil into good. As the story of Joseph unfolds, he eventually becomes the saviour of his family because of his ability to forgive and because of his love for his father. Jesus forgives us not only because of his love for the Father but because of his love for us. In our Lenten journey we seek not only forgiveness for ourselves but also for others and also the ability to forgive others whatever their offence against us. In this way God can work through us so that we too might become instruments of salvation, like Joseph.

In *Laudato Si* Pope Francis writes: *Sister earth cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. (1-2)*

Despite our debauchery of the earth, she will only too willingly forgive us and spring forth with new life – resurrect – if we make greater efforts to heal and nurture her. In seeking forgiveness of the earth, we can become instruments of New Life.

All powerful God, you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.