

Reflection Tuesday Holy Week 2021

In speaking to his disciples at the last supper Jesus implies that the Glory of God does not always come neatly packaged, with acclaim, fanfare and jubilation – it can be quite the opposite. God's glory also comes through suffering and torture, humiliation and brutality. Not something we would readily embrace but Jesus did. We will never know the reasons why Judas betrayed Jesus only that he did. Peter believed deeply and sincerely that he would never ever betray Jesus and must have been hurt to hear Jesus' words. We can identify with Peter. We, too, can be brave among friends but when alone and facing rejection or worse, we, too, would easily lose courage. Despite all this awareness of betrayal, Jesus did not back down but continued his journey which indicates the strength of his love for the Father and his love for us. Our consolation is that, when we betray Jesus in different ways, Jesus does not abandon us. He did not abandon Peter who went on to preach the gospel with unflinching courage and commitment. It is this kind of empowering forgiveness that Jesus offers us, however many times we might betray him.

Saint Peter Malcolm Guite

Impulsive master of misunderstanding
you comfort me with all your big mistakes;
jumping the ship before you make the landing,
placing the bet before you know the stakes.
I love the way you step out without knowing,
the way you sometimes speak before you think,
the way your broken faith is always growing,
the way he holds you even when you sink.
Born to a world that always tried to shame you,
your shaky ego vulnerable to shame,
I love the way that Jesus chose to name you,
before you knew how to deserve that name.
And, in the end your Saviour let you prove
that each denial is undone by love.