

### Reflection Tuesday Lent 3 – 2021

Forgiveness, forgiveness, forgiveness: a key word in Lent. Some of the most beautiful stories about forgiveness can be found in the Gospels. They endear us to God whose mercy and forgiveness are immeasurable. People believe, rightly so, that God will forgive them whatever they may have done or not done. Yet, one area of forgiveness difficult to face lies in forgiving ourselves. The other area of forgiveness that has become much more apparent, but is not taken seriously enough, concerns the harm and abuse with which we have treated creation. Jesus said that before coming to pray and worship if there is a grievance between you and your brother (or family member), make peace with your brother first. Today Jesus would have also added. Go and make peace with creation before coming here to worship. So - HAVE YOU? God forgives us because he sees the beauty, goodness and love with which we were made. Forgiveness allows these great gifts to bust forth not just for ourselves but for others. If we realised the utter goodness, beauty and love inherent in creation, we would stop harming it and seek to heal and promote it. In forgiving us, Creation allows itself to release its exquisite beauty, untold goodness and inspiring love, opening us to the wonder of God. Creation holds the answer to forgiving ourselves. Only when we forgive ourselves will the beauty, goodness, wonder and love with which we have been created be able to bust forth and give praise and glory to God our creator. In doing so it will enable forgiveness to penetrate the lives of those around us and help create a greater dominance of good over evil in the world.

A prayer from Iona:

*You are above me O God; You are beneath; You are in air; You are in earth; You are beside me; You are within. O God of heaven, you have made your home on earth in the broken body of Creation. Kindle within me a love for you in all things. There is no plant in the ground but tells of your beauty, O Christ. There is no life in the sea but proclaims your goodness. There is no bird on the wing, there is no star in the sky, there is nothing beneath the sun but is full of your blessing. Lighten my understanding of your presence all around, O Christ. Kindle my will to be caring for Creation."*