

## Reflection Tuesday Lent 4 – 2021

Ezekiel prophesied the fall and destruction of Israel before it was taken into exile by the Babylonians. He was taken too. In today's reading, Ezekiel speaks about the restoration of Israel, using water as the symbol of new life. This water of new life has many names: the grace and blessings of God, the love and compassion of God, a deeply inspired hope, the desire to be an instrument of life for others; it is found in the care, support and value we show to others. Living and sharing life in this way with others breeds goodness and becomes part of the very air we breathe. At the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem, water is also the symbol of new life with which Jesus identifies. Jesus lived - lives among us offering new life to all who open their lives to him. Jesus the water of life is given to us in baptism and in all the sacraments. As with all God's gifts, it is a life to be shared with others. **A story to mull over:**

*A water bearer carried two large pots at each end of a pole. One pot had a crack in it, the other pot was perfect, delivering all its water.*

*After the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot always arrived half full. For two years the water bearer only delivered one and a half pots water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments but the cracked pot was ashamed and miserable of its own imperfection.*

*The cracked pot said to the water bearer. "I am ashamed and I apologize to you." "Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?" "For these past two years I only deliver half my load because of this crack in my side. You do all this work and do not receive full value from your efforts."*

*The water bearer replied, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." The cracked pot noticed the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers by the side of the path, and was cheered somewhat.*

*The water bearer continued, "Did you not notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, and not on the other? That's because I knew about your flaw and took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while walking back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."*