

Reflection Saturday Holy Week 2021

Waiting . . . waiting . . . waiting! Waiting is never easy but our waiting is far, far removed from the waiting of Mary, the other women and disciples of Jesus. Even if some of them remembered his words: *After three days . . .* they were grief stricken, lost and in a state of emptiness and loss – all hope gone. Their purpose, even their future had disappeared. And then there was the crippling fear that they, too, would soon be caught and suffer a similar fate.

Our waiting is one filled with expectation and hope. It even carries a sense of urgency that Jesus cannot rise from the dead too soon. The pandemic has opened us to a profound sense of our frailty and how much our lives depend on the goodness and mercy of God. We share a common desire that the risen Christ will free us from the menace and evil of the virus, not just for ourselves but for our world. If we do not help the poorer nations, the virus will reappear in an even more deadly form. Having helped us find the antidote in various forms, it is up to us to use it effectively for everyone. The graces and blessings of the risen Lord we receive are always for us to share with others and especially with the less fortunate and the marginalised. Jesus rose again because he believed in and trusted us to do this. He also wants us to discover that in helping others we also help ourselves. Use these precious hours of waiting to see the areas in your lives where you need Christ to better serve others with the generosity and love that you receive from Christ. Your Easter alleluias will be filled with a joy never experienced before!!

It is enough to listen to the silence (Silvia Ostertag)

*Silence comes to fetch us
where we have just been
with our thoughts and feelings.*

*It is enough to listen to the silence.
Silence brings us to where we are now,
right here, into this room,
to this place, this morning.*

*It is enough to listen to the silence.
Silence embraces what wants to become.
Whatever this day brings us, is held,
and always has been, in this silence now.*

It is enough to listen to the silence - and wait!