

Reflection Wednesday Easter Week 2 – 2021

In the Gospel of John today, Jesus speaks about being a light, about people living in darkness, about his coming into the world to save it not condemn it. Greta Thunberg, the young climate activist, is passionate about saving the world and, like the early apostles and disciples, is unafraid to challenge the leaders of the world who are living in darkness, doing little to promote greener energy and a greener lifestyle. She asks us to make sacrifices to save the world for future generations. She is self-effacing, seeks no glory for herself, accepts painful suffering in crowds because of her autism, all because of her concern for the planet but also because of her concern for people and their future. Like Jesus, her mission is to save the world. In the Christian world she would be called a modern-day Prophet, possibly a modern-day saint. She possesses a wisdom and maturity that far surpasses most if not all present-day politicians and leaders.

In an encounter between the Greek philosopher Socrates and Plato his famous student, Plato asked Socrates, "How can I know what I wish to know about God and life?" Socrates said nothing; he just took him to the seashore, waded into the sea and held Plato's head under water. Plato waited... and waited... and waited... and gulped, and panicked. When he was almost lifeless, Socrates threw him on the shore. Plato was gasping for air, and after a few minutes managed to cry out, "I only asked a question, why did you try to kill me?" Socrates replied, "Tell me your question again!" Plato said, "I wanted to know the secrets of the Universe!" Socrates said, "When you were under water, what was it you wanted?" Plato shouted "Air, to breathe!" Socrates said, "How bad did you want it?" Plato said, "It was all I could think about! My entire being was focused on getting air!" Socrates said, "When you want to know what you wish to know about God and life as much as you wanted air, it will come to you almost effortlessly."

If we do not radically change the way we live to heal our world, we will end up struggling for air to breathe but, by then, it will be too late!! Like Jesus, Greta Thunberg wants us to choose life before it is too late!