

Reflection Wednesday Easter Week 5 - 2021

It is good to know that the early Church were not given all the answers by Jesus but were trusted to make the right decisions whenever they faced radical decisions. The question they faced was whether to be a Christian you had to become a Jew first. Fortunately for the Church of the future they were open to the guidance of the Spirit. Hearing Jesus likening himself to a vine to which we are grafted gives us the reason for his trust. The spirit of God that flowed through him also flows through us since we are grafted onto him. Throughout history, the Church has constantly faced new challenges and made new and challenging decisions, not always making the right decisions initially but eventually uncovering the will of Jesus, the will of the Father, and moving forward. It is reassuring, sustaining and joyful to know that the spirit of Jesus, the spirit of the Father and the Holy Spirit flows through our lives. There are times when we will misunderstand and make wrong decisions but eventually the Spirit will lead us to the right path. It is also good to know that Jesus has complete trust in us despite our mistakes.

Pope Francis:

The Lord says: *“the Christian life is to **remain** in me”* and Jesus uses the image of the vine: like the branches *remain* on a vine (Jn 15:1-8). This is not a passive remaining, a falling asleep in the Lord or a kind of *“beatific slumber”*. This *remain* is an active remaining, and it is also a mutual remaining. Jesus says: *“You remain in me and I in you.”* He also remains in us; it is not only we in Him. It is a *mutual* remaining. Elsewhere Jesus says: I and the Father *“will come to him and we will make our home in him”* (Jn 14:23). This is a mystery, a mystery of life and a beautiful mystery. This *mutual remaining* in the vine shows that branches not attached to the vine can do nothing because the sap would not get to them. They need the sap to grow and bear fruit; but the vine also needs the branches because the fruit is not attached to the vine but the branches. There is a mutual need, a mutual remaining in order to bear fruit.