

Reflection Thursday Week 34 – 2021

St Augustine of Hippo Letter 198. *"The signs given in the Gospel and in prophecy and fulfilled in us show the coming of the Lord... We know that the coming is near by the fact that we see the fulfilment of certain signs of that coming that have been accomplished... The signs that Christ told them to look for are listed in the Gospel of Saint Luke: 'Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the times of the nations are fulfilled.' This has happened and no one doubts that it has happened... It is plain that there is no country or place in our time that is not harassed or humbled according to the words 'for fear and expectation of what will come on the whole world.' All the signs that the gospel describes in the earlier verses have mostly been accomplished."*

We pass through many different kinds of death and resurrection during life. The death of a loved one, the loss of a job, a failure in exams or in a competition. The following resurrection can be short or very long but, however long, we emerge a changed person. We are never the same. Facing the threat of creation imploding because of the harm we have caused, it is imperative that we respond to prevent this happening. Many, who emerge from any kind of death experience, begin to relive their lives. In the case of the death of a loved one, they respond out of love and thanksgiving to honour their memory for all they had received from them. Let us respond with thanksgiving for all that creation has given us. And let us respond with love and honour knowing that it still wants to give us more if we let it.

"What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls the butterfly." — Richard Bach.

Having drunk far too much, a chap struggles to walk home despite only living a few hundred yards from the pub. He literally crawls on the pavement all the way back home, drags himself up the stairs and finally reaches his bed after two hours. He wakes up the next morning, and his wife says: "You were really drunk last night, weren't you?"

"Yes, why? How do you know?" "You left your wheelchair at the pub."