

Reflection Monday 2nd Week Lent 2022

Focus words from the first reading are kindness, love, integrity, mercy and pardon; all of which apply to God. Daniel makes clear how much we fail God and how we too easily turn from God. What to do?

Certainly, our prayer, our cry to God, particularly in Lent, is: *“Do not treat us according to our sins and failings!”*

Fortunately, Jesus answers the question clearly and directly.

‘Be compassionate, do not judge, do not condemn and grant pardon. Give and there will be gifts for you because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.’ LK. 6

Always easier said than done, but Lent does not pretend to offer an easy way forward. Being compassionate, non-judgemental and being generous with time, support and encouragement are good starting points that the Lenten season calls us to work on so that they become part of our nature, our being, in which others will recognise the presence of Jesus.

This is what to do!

Pope Francis: *“Compassion allows us to see reality; compassion is like the lens of the heart: it allows us to take in and understand our true dimensions. In the Gospels, Jesus is often moved by compassion. In fact, compassion is the language of God. Our God is a God of compassion; and compassion - we can say - is the weakness of God, but it is also a virtue of God and His strength. However, if compassion is the language of God, so often human language is that of indifference. Compassion takes us along the path to true justice. We must always return what rightfully belongs to someone else, and this always saves us from selfishness, from indifference, and from our own closure to God and to others.”*