

Reflection Thursday 1st Week Lent 2022

When we ask God for something, God always responds. The trouble is we do not always receive what we prayed for; however good our request. The terrible atrocities happening in Ukraine continue despite the deluge of prayer for peace!!

The door is always open to us, but we do not always recognise it as such.

Seek and we will find. Again, this is true although we do not always find that for which we search. God is not a little shop on the corner filled with all possible kinds of gifts, there for the asking! Jesus asked to be freed from the cup of suffering he would face in the crucifixion: that did not happen. Despite Jesus' cry of agony, God did not forsake Jesus on the cross which is why Jesus could say at the last, *Into YOUR hands I commend my Spirit!!*

Would it not be better to ask God to help us see how he is present in Ukraine amidst all the insane atrocities and pointless slaughter of life? Would it not be better to ask God to help us speak words of comfort to someone dying of cancer or motor-neurone disease? Or not to be embarrassed by the inability to say anything? Hopefully, we will then find the love, compassion, goodness and presence of God especially when our prayers do not appear to be answered or where God seems completely absent?

Jesus was put to death on the cross because of injustice. Blaming God for the terrible tragedies and injustices we encounter in life is a similar injustice. It is too easy to look around the world and see the blatant injustices of powerful people and not address and ask forgiveness for the injustices of which we accuse God!!

Pope Francis: *Bitter disappointment at shattered dreams, deep concern for the challenges ahead and discouragement at the poverty of our resources, can tempt us to seek refuge in self-centredness and indifference to the suffering of others. Indeed, even our best resources have their limitations. Yet God "gives strength to the weary, he strengthens the powerless...*