

Reflection Wednesday 5th Week Lent 2022

Nebuchadnezzar was very privileged to have a real experience of the presence of God in the furnace. Here is someone who did not believe, did not even understand the vision, but realised that the God of the Hebrews was the true God. This is a very concrete example of how, when we acknowledge or experience God's presence, it can radically change the whole understanding of our experience and inspire our faith.

Jesus says: *'If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free.'*

The Word is much more than what is written or said, it is a person, Jesus Christ. Making a home for the Word means recognising how Jesus is present in our lives and in our world. This does not mean we possess Jesus rather than Jesus possesses us. Similarly, it is because Jesus is the Truth that his presence sets us free. As Jesus is the Truth, we cannot possess the Truth either. Jesus' presence helps us recognise truth from falsehood and helps guide us in our faith, action, prayer and reflection. It shows how much Jesus wants to be fully part of our lives. He believes in our innate ability to trust, in our goodness and wisdom, our generosity of heart and our compassion for others. He believes we can make sacrifices that we do not believe ourselves able to make. He is present as a guide, an inspirer and motivator. He wants to challenge us to go beyond our comfort zones and personal securities. Jesus values us more than we value ourselves. He wants us to reach our full potential in loving him, in loving God and loving our neighbour.