

Reflection Thursday 4th Week Easter 2022

One of the foundation blocks of the Old Testament is that God always keeps his promises. Even if his people turn their backs on God, God would always be faithful to the promise he made to watch over them, guide them in the ways of God and lead them to the fulfilment of life. In addressing the Jews in Antioch, Peter took them on a whistlestop tour of their history reminding them that God promised to send them a saviour to lead them to glory. It offers us an opportunity to reflect on the people who have (or have not) helped us to discover the Faith and have helped, supported and guided us in living it.

Jesus continually refers to the relationship with his Father as being of the same spirit. Those close to us give us a glimpse of what this means. We share with them a spirit that strengthens, uplifts, supports and encourages us. Being bearers of Good News, it is not *our* message that we bring to others but the Good News of Jesus Christ. Being servants means we are instruments or channels of the goodness, love and the graces of Jesus to those we encounter. But let us also acknowledge that we also receive the graces of God from those we encounter through whom God also works. This is why being servants of Christ, bearers of Good News is such a great honour.

- **Pope Francis:** *The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.*
- **Martin Luther** God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.