

Reflection Wednesday 3rd Week Advent St John of the Cross 2022

St John of the Cross was born in Fontiveros, Spain, about 1542. Having spent time as a Carmelite, in 1568 Saint Teresa of Ávila persuaded him to pioneer the reform of the Carmelite order. This was a difficult and dangerous task: he suffered imprisonment and severe punishment from Church authorities. He died at the monastery of Ubeda in Andalusia on 14th December 1591: the monks had initially treated him as the worst of sinners, but by his death they recognised his sanctity and his funeral was the occasion of great joy. His works include two major mystical poems – considered to be one of the great poets of the Spanish language – and detailed commentaries on them and the spiritual truths they convey. He was canonized in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.

The readings today speak about a wisdom of God that goes beyond human explanation yet is all the more real and powerful. Knowing that the Church is built on the rock of Peter, other rocks, like John of the Cross, are equally an important part of the foundation of the Church. It is found in his example and his writings.

- *Never give up prayer, and should you find dryness and difficulty, persevere in it for this very reason. God often desires to see what love your soul has, and love is not tried by ease and satisfaction.*
- *In the inner stillness where meditation leads, the Spirit secretly anoints the soul and heals our deepest wounds.*
- *Where there is no love, pour love in, and you will draw love out.*
- *Silence is God's first language.*
- *However softly we speak, God is so close to us that he can hear us; nor do we need wings to go in search of him, but merely to seek solitude and contemplate him within ourselves, without being surprised to find such a good Guest there.*

What type of shoes do bananas wear.

Slippers

What kind of shoes does a spy wear?

Sneakers

I didn't think orthopaedic shoes would help with my posture, but I stand corrected.