

Reflection Monday Week 2 2023

Jesus clearly states *“No one puts new wine into old wineskins.”* (Mark 2:21–22)

So, what can Christian faith contribute towards a shared vision of a better world that we might be able to help build together?

Jesus also asks us to read *“the signs of the times”* and recognise a *Kairos* moment – those crucial times that demand action, conversion and transformation. Scripture tells us not to be daunted by *kairos* moments. In fact, they are opportunities for grace. The way in which communities responded to the pandemic has shown us the way forward.

“We [must] not settle for business as usual but seize the moment of change to make the world a little more as it should be, a little more real.” (The Centre for Theology and Community)

Recent Gospels have told of Jesus healing people. Many of the people Jesus heals were isolated and marginalised. The healing they receive from Jesus restores them to relationship with others as well as to the community. These healing stories remind us that recovering from the coronavirus outbreak means strengthening our communities as well as healing from illness.

Let us use the time ahead to redress injustices, forgive debts, develop new relationships and help bring about a rebirth of society in a positive way.

We are aware that previous lockdowns allowed nature to re-emerge and flourish. This reminds us of the importance of the Sabbath to stop and take a rest. Theologian Greg Smith, referring to the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians, writes *‘The land finally enjoyed its Sabbath rest, lying desolate until the 70 years were fulfilled, just as the prophet had said.’* If we are not too late, we could reintroduce this Sabbath effect to promote greater human flourishing, and a respite from the desolation we have imposed on God’s good earth.

It doesn’t matter if the glass is half empty or half full. There’s clearly room for more wine.

What kind of wine do they serve at the horse races? Chardon-neeiiigghh!