

## Reflection Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Week Lent 2023

Genesis testifies to the power of the Word to create and that what is created is good and wholesome. The same God and Father sent his Son, the Word, to come and live among us to teach us the ways of God. That same Word wishes to work in us and through us. However, the Word will not force us to do the will of the Father. We are given the choice to say yes and to say no to God. As always Jesus encourages us to pray not so much by using words but by **listening** to God, to the Word, so that we freely, joyfully and eagerly let God work in us and through us. **Listening** is a major theme for Lent. God already knows our prayers of thanksgiving, of praise, our petitions, and our cry for forgiveness but do we know what God wants from us???

### **Pope Francis:**

Dear brothers and sisters, often we keep our distance from God because we think we are not worthy of him. And this is true. But Jesus invites us to see things from his point of view. If your heart seems too contaminated by evil, if it seems disordered, please, do not close yourself up, do not be afraid: he will come. Think of the stable in Bethlehem. Jesus was born there, in that poverty, to tell us that he is certainly not afraid of visiting your heart, of dwelling in a shabby life. *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

And this is the word: **to dwell**. To dwell expresses a total sharing, a great intimacy. And this is what God wants: he wants to dwell with us, he wants to dwell in us, not remain distant.