

Reflection Thursday 1st Week Lent 2023

Jesus tells us: *“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him.”*

But do we appreciate what this means. Whatever we ask of God, God will respond but what we receive may not be what we asked for – a challenge. Search and you will find, this too is true, but what we find may not be what we thought we were looking for. Knock and the door will always be opened to you, but what we encounter may be a surprise, a challenge or even something we would prefer not to discover. God knows our innermost needs and deepest desires and will do the best to help and support us. Lent is the time to reflect more deeply on what are our true desires, our true needs. How do we really want God’s help in our lives?

*To those most favoured of us all, the Lord grants favour still,
through every brand-new miracle, according to His will,
such that the devil quakes in fear before holy women and men
beloved by God and held most dear, in ways beyond our ken.
Who counts the signs and wonders seen, or heard about at length,
or praises God when He proves keen to demonstrate His strength?
Who kneels in prayer and full of faith requesting God to move,
to act with love and then to save lost souls that must improve?
Yet there are multitudes right now, unseen, their names unknown,
who to the Lord will daily bow, approaching Heaven's Throne.
And those upon the Lord still smiles receive as they believe
despite the evil that beguiles each person to deceive.
When God responds, with utmost grace, who then stands in His way?
And that is why the Human Race has some who love to pray.* Denis Martindale.