

Reflection Friday 5th Week Lent 2023

A steadfast belief in the care and love of the Father is the underlying theme of both readings today. Jeremiah faced hostility and rejection throughout the whole of his life but continually believed that the Father was with him and that he spoke in the Father's name. Jesus has faced unbelief and hostility throughout the gospels this week yet firmly believes that he speaks in the name of his Father and that the Father will watch over him. Whatever the writer may mean or what we might think, Jesus does not want vengeance, like Isaiah, but wants the Jews he is addressing to believe in him and be saved. Maybe it is the climate of hostility that clouds the minds of the Jews questioning Jesus, we know that it does the same to us. We read about murders, arsons, systemic racism and endemic abuse, hatred of people one for the other, wars, the gradual collapse of the ecosystem of our world and it is hard for us to see any hope for the future. All the more reason, therefore, for us to journey close together and support each in prayer during this Holy Week that is shortly to begin.

Let us look ahead with hope:

The Donkey

*When fishes flew and forests walked
and figs grew upon thorn,
some moment when the moon was blood
then surely I was born;
with monstrous head and sickening cry
and ears like errant wings,
the devil's walking parody
on all four-footed things.
The tattered outlaw of the earth,
of ancient crooked will;
starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.
Fools! For I also had my hour;
one far fierce hour and sweet:
there was a shout about my ears,
and palms before my feet.* G.K. Chesterton (1874–1936)