

Reflection Wednesday 3rd Week Easter 2023

Nearly 200 years have passed since Jesus rose from the dead, one would have thought that by now the Devil would have given up, but No!

From the moment Jesus began life on earth he has created new life out of any harm the Devil has tried to do. We are well aware of the evils in the world: wars, diseases, famine, drought, but the response of goodness has always been more powerful. People have devoted and sacrificed their lives to heal and help and to create peace, harmony and reconciliation. The persecution suffered by the early Christians led to them to go forth and preach the gospel in the lands around them, thus bringing far more people to Christ than those who lost their lives or were imprisoned for upholding the faith.

Story: Rain had not fallen in the village for 4 years, leaving everyone in the village very sad. One day, a village farmer called his wife and 6-year-old daughter, *"We should pray to God for rain."* He said. So, they began to pray.

In a hoarse voice hiding his tears, the farmer prayed *"I have heard that God answers children's prayers quickly. Let us pray to God for rain."* The young daughter prayed, *"God, my father is very upset... You can do everything... Please make it rain on our village..."*

After some time, the Farmer rose to go off to work. The little girl asked him *"Where are you going?"*

"Daughter, I'm going to work on the farm", he said. His daughter said to him, *"Wait... I'll come with you."*

The girl then ran inside and returned with an umbrella. Seeing the umbrella the farmer asked, *"Why are you bringing an umbrella? It's evening, the sun has already set."*

The little girl said, *"Father, we have prayed to God for rain. We will get wet without an umbrella."* The farmer looked at the sky, then at the innocent face of his daughter.

At that very moment, he heard a voice say to him, ***"It's good to pray but it is more important to believe that your prayer will be answered and then act accordingly."***

He kissed his daughter on the forehead and went to work, holding the umbrella.

I was told not to try and tell clever jokes about umbrellas. They just go over people's heads!