

Reflection Wednesday 5th Week Lent 2023

Daniel's story about Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego makes clear the power of God to save whatever our situation. It also speaks of the trust and loyalty of these three. It is good therefore to hear Jesus say: *'If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free.'* The great difficulty we have is how we understand the truth. Have an argument with somebody and later, when the argument is described by each party, the versions will be different. Each party has perceived and understood what happened differently.

In Baptism we invited Jesus, the Word and the Truth, to take up residence in our lives. As the Truth, Jesus is much more than the facts, understanding and knowledge, much more. It is an experience, a presence, a power, a grace that helps us see every situation more like the way God sees it. It is much more associated with conscience which God gave us at conception. There is a sense in which allowing the truth to set us free implies allowing Jesus, the Truth, who dwells within us free reign over our lives. This means handing over complete control of our lives to God. One of the greatest challenges we face throughout the whole of our lives. We hate not being in control!

Pope Francis: *God gives everything, He gives fully of himself. The fullness emptied out on the cross is the fullness of God. So, Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously, according to your means.*