

Reflection Thursday Week 16 – 2023

We are blessed, Jesus says, because we see and hear, but isn't there a temptation to see and hear so often and so much that we become dulled in our reception of these treasures about which Jesus speaks?

Because we are busy analysing what has happened and reflecting on what lies ahead, working out our way forward, it becomes more and more difficult to be present to the people we encounter, to ourselves and, most of all, to be present to God and to his Word. The present situation is not the same as the time when we previously heard this passage of scripture and will affect the way we hear what is read.

Remember the Kellogg's advert for Cornflakes several years back inviting us to *"Taste them again for first time!"* It is possible to encounter people time and time again and do just that. *Taste the Word again for the first time.* A repeated encounter always has something new to offer. Whenever Jesus' encounters us, he always sees and hears something new within us. Jesus then goes on to say that in every encounter, in every seeing and hearing, an opportunity for conversion and healing is available.

Pope Francis: *Let us put the Word at the centre, to enlarge our boundaries, to open ourselves up to people, and to foster experiences of encounter with the Lord, realizing that the Word of God "is not encased in abstract or static formulas, but has a dynamic power in history which is made up of persons and events, words and actions, developments and tensions".*

"When it enters us, the Word transforms our hearts and minds; it changes us and leads us to direct our lives to the Lord... Here is Jesus' invitation: God has come close to you; recognise His presence, make room for His Word, and you will change your outlook on life."

A deaf man had a bike helmet that would vibrate if there was a loud noise from behind him to alert him of any vehicle's presence. I guess you could call it his handy cap