

Reflection Monday Week 25 – 2023

To be allowed to return to their homeland after decades in exile must have been received with deep joy and thanksgiving by the people of Israel. Even more so was the blessed news that they would be able to rebuild the temple and receive the necessary help to do so. The homes of the families must have been filled with thanksgiving and praise day after day. To have the temple rebuilt was tantamount to saying that the people had atoned for their sins and infidelity and that there were now, once again, back in God's favour and God's chosen people.

This restored temple was the one that Jesus knew and from which he drove out the money changers and sellers. This was the temple that nearly forty years after Jesus died on the cross was destroyed by the Romans when the People rose up in rebellion against their rulers. The wailing wall is all that remains of this temple.

Jesus speaks of another way to show that God is present; not a temple but a light, a light that shines reassurance, mercy and love; a warm light that welcomes and sustains; a light that inspires and motivates; a light that energises and bestows wisdom. It is the same light that we received in baptism, the light of Christ who is always the source of any light that shines forth from us.

Lord may your light shine freely in and through us and be a sign of your unending presence and generous love for the world and all its people, each of whom you know by name.