

Reflection Thursday Week 25 – 2023

Even after 18 years the Temple in Jerusalem had still not been built despite all the help the people had been given. Let's focus on another temple. When we were baptised, we too became temples of God. God had taken up full residence within us, each in a unique way and would remain there until we meet God face to face.

The Church par excellence is the Temple of the Holy Spirit and in which we form an integral part. Pope Francis recognises this:

The Church is the dwelling place of God and a place of encounter with the living God. The Church is vivified by the life and power of the Holy Spirit. In Jerusalem, the great Temple of Solomon was the site of the encounter with God in prayer; inside the temple there was the Ark of the Covenant, a sign of the presence of God in the midst of the people."

The early communities of Christians, who were made into the Body of Christ by Baptism, are presented as the living stones of the spiritual house, who is Christ. We are the living stones of God, profoundly united to Christ, who is the rock of support, and among ourselves." It means that the communities of believers are the living stones who are brought together by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of one of us that makes us into the one Family, the People of God.

Since we are living stones in the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Church, it means that God grants to each one of us a variety of gifts for the edification of the Church. Being living stones tells us that no one is useless in the Church! We are all needed in order to build this temple. No one is secondary, we are all equal. We are brothers and sisters. No one is anonymous: all form and build the Church. Nevertheless, it also invites us to reflect on the fact that the Temple wants the brick of our Christian life and that something is wanting in the beauty of the Church."