

Reflection Tuesday Week 25 – 2023

How the people of Israel must have wondered at the God who first had Cyrus help them return from the bondage of exile to return home and gain the wherewithal to rebuild their temple, their most sacred place. Now King Darius reinforces this move and again asks others to help the people in all their endeavours to rebuild their lives and their nation around the temple of God. How the faith of the people must have been strengthened and their trust in God who was watching over them. The sacrifices they offered in thanksgiving and praise to God brings to mind the words of the prophets and of Jesus that it is not sacrifices that God wants but humble and contrite hearts, God wants mercy not sacrifices.

The vision Jesus has of us is one of a family, that we are his brothers and sisters in the trust and loyalty we show by living the Gospel that has been handed on to us. Rather than belittle Mary, his mother, he raises our status, seeing us as special members of his family, just as Mary is. Like Mary we too have a special mission to fulfil, to help the kingdom of God, the kingdom of love and mercy be strengthened and grow here on earth.

An essential and urgent mission for us today concerns our creation. Without it, future generations will have nowhere to fulfil their mission because there will be no creation, the earth will have imploded.

Lord, bless creation with new life and urge us on ever more forcefully to aide this process.