

Reflection Friday Week 28 – 2023

In days gone by, very common among the birds in England was the house sparrow. However, its population has lost some 10.7 million pairs in the last sixty years and is now on the red list of endangered species. I wonder what Jesus would think of this?

But let's start with Jesus' reassuring words not to be afraid, have trust in me he says. When he talks about fear of evil in whatever form it takes, it is more about recognising the harm that evil can do to us so as to avoid it or have nothing to do with it. But, don't belittle its power. The tragedy of war in Israel/Palestine as well as in Ukraine are stark testimony to the destructive power of evil. They show us the global influence of evil. The rise in the cost of living is largely due to these wars. Never underestimate the influence on others caused by the harm we do.

Among the Rubble ©Jan Sutch Pickard, UK

Compassionate God,
in our minds, we pray among the rubble,
the unholy mess of demolitions
in the land we call Holy.
In our hearts we hold
families who have lost their homes,
children who have seen their schools destroyed,
communities which no longer have a clinic.
We pray for them as they weep for all that is lost.
We pray that they will not lose hope.
And we pray, too, for
the men who drive the bulldozers,
soldiers who beat back protestors,
politicians who sign the orders –
aware that such actions destroy their humanity.
Bless those who campaign against injustice;
bless the patient rebuilders;
bless those who hope against hope
that peace with justice will prevail
in the land that we call Holy. Amen.