

Reflection Wednesday Week 31 – 2023

St Ignatius offers help to follow Jesus more closely: *The goal of our life is to be with God forever. We should not fix our desires on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or a short one. For everything has the potential of calling forth in us a deeper response to our life in God.*

Everything within us has the potential of calling forth in us a deeper response to God. Whatever sacrifices Jesus asks us to make are always for our ultimate benefit. We willingly make sacrifices of all kinds when the reward is significant and, following Jesus Christ out of love and in thanksgiving is in itself a great reward which will inspire others to do the same. As one disciple of Jesus said. *By putting God first, one never comes second.* In all the gospels, Jesus wants to help us live the best lives possible but equally underlines that this demands effort and sacrifice. In fact, it is our efforts and sacrifices that teach us to be wise in the subsequent decisions that we make.

Jesus challenges us to ask, *“Can we drink of the chalice from which Jesus drank as he approached his sacrifice?”* Can we willingly give everything, holding nothing back? Can our love of God and others be so complete and total that we become a martyr in the truest sense of the word? Let us strive to say “Yes” and drink from the chalice of Jesus’ Precious Blood and to daily offer our lives in total sacrifice. It’s worth it and you can do it!

Jesus knows this, which is why he challenges us.

For the time being

My children asked me if we could eat out. I told them we are not doing that for the **time being**.

Later my children asked me if they could watch TV. I told them we are not doing that for the **time being**.

I woke up last night to a burning smell. I rushed to the living room to find my children standing around a clock that was set on fire. They told me *“We are making sacrifices for the Time Being.”*