

Reflection Thursday Week 32 – 2023

If we listen to scripture carefully, Jesus makes it very clear that we do not have to worry about the end of the world and when or how it will happen. Phew!!

Jesus returns to the theme of the Kingdom of God. It is not defined by place or by time because it is present with us always and because the kingdom of God is something we experience. It is allied to the times when we experience the presence of God in an experience, a place or a person, in the creation around us, in a time of prayer and contemplation.

The Kingdom (Cafod)

It helps now and then to step back
and take the long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection,
no pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No programme accomplishes the Church's mission.

That is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects
far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.

This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter
and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between
the master builder and the worker.

We are the workers, not the master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.

We are the prophets of a future not of our own. Amen.

Bishop Ken Untener (words attributed to Saint Oscar Romero).

As the painters finish painting my home, they hand me the bill. I notice that by the paint it says £0. I say, "*you chaps did such a good job, why aren't you charging me for the paint?*" The head painter looks at me and says, "*don't worry about the paint, it's on the house.*"