

Reflection Tuesday 1st Week Advent 2023

Once again Isaiah hits the nail on the head. He begins by reminding us that we are blessed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom and insight, counsel and power, knowledge and the fear of the Lord (*wonder and awe*). As followers of Christ, he tells us that integrity is the loincloth we wear around our waist and that our faithfulness to God provides us with the divine support we need for our actions.

The gifts of the Spirit are not badges that we wear, they are only realised in action in how we reach out to others, how we treat people, how we show we value and affirm people. These gifts help us encourage, inspire, promote hope and confidence. This is what Jesus did throughout his ministry and why people, open to these gifts, followed him. It is in this way that just as Jesus is a light who leads us through Advent, we become a light for others as Jesus' presence shine within us.

As we seek healing for our faults during Advent, we see in Jesus a divine healer. Jesus has given us a plant, often found in this season, the mistletoe. It was called "all heal" by the pagan Druids, and used in Christian times as a symbol of Christ, the Divine Healer of all nations.

"The mistletoe bough at our Christmas board shall hang, to honour Christ the Lord: For He is the evergreen tree of Life."

"What this planet needs is more mistletoe and less missile-talk."