

Reflection Monday 4th Week Lent 2024

For over three weeks we have been called to repentance, to move away from all that harms us, through sin, back to God. We are asked to put God at the centre of our lives. In doing this we will gradually become aware of how much God is present in our everyday lives, in the people we meet, in the local environment through which we pass, especially in the countryside and in nature, but also in the everyday events of our lives. As our readings suggest, by doing this we are now ready to see God as one who wants to recreate our lives more in his image: an image of love and compassion, kindness and mercy, generosity and selflessness, seekers of justice and peace. All these qualities form themselves into a light that shines within us and through us. A light which we will recognise as the light of Jesus Christ.

One way of appreciating the readings is to see them as an offer of hope:

Both readings speak of hope especially in the face of suffering. Isaiah addresses a people who have experienced hardship and exile from their homeland, promising them joy and prosperity. The Gospel then presents a father deeply anxious about his sick son. In both, there is a clear message: placing our trust in God brings us hope and can transform situations of suffering into ones of joy and life or, as Isaiah writes, Joy and Gladness!