

### **Reflection Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Week Lent 2024**

What is so refreshing about Jesus is his recognition that the Father worked through him. He insists that he is fulfilling his Father's will not his own. However, he made clear that only in believing in Jesus as the Messiah, the chosen one sent by the Father, will we be able to hear the voice of the Father, be open to the will of the Father and allow the Father to work through us.

Implicit in all this is love is the love of God for us, our love of the Father and the Son and our openness to the Love of God.

I was privileged to attend a Methodist Art exhibition portraying many scenes in the life of Jesus especially connected with his passion and death. It was a moving experience since the paintings, in modern art style, evoked an emotional and possibly a rational response. Cardinal Vincent joined us. In his reflection, he opened his heart to us – us being the priests in Hertfordshire. The paintings invoked in him the vulnerabilities of life and his own vulnerabilities, inspired by the portrayal of Jesus in his passion and death. He recognised the vulnerability of his service to the priests and people of the diocese, encouraging us to recognise the same in ourselves. He spoke of sacrifice in terms of offering his life in service, understanding that he had not always been right in his decisions and made mistakes. In many ways he painted a picture of his vulnerability and helplessness as portrayed by art in the experience of Jesus throughout his passion. It was the heart and the love revealed by Jesus in his passion and death of Jesus that most inspired him. The picture painted by the Cardinal was one painted with the heart and was truly encouraging. A heart speaking to our hearts as John Henry Newman said.