

Reflection Tuesday of Holy Week 2024

The drama of the Passion is well underway now! Judas and also Peter are both about to let Jesus down. John wrote his Gospel some 80 years after the Resurrection and has had time to reflect on what happened. Having been familiar with the Old Testament and the many prophecies about the Messiah, Jesus had an understanding about what was going to unfold. Whilst we know what Judas will do to Christ and ultimately to himself, it is the figure of Peter who is fascinating. Peter, whom Christ chose as the rock on which to build his church, is shown to hit one of his lowest points in this gospel. His sureness of following Jesus was challenged by Jesus himself. Peter too would let Jesus down by denying that he knew him. But after he disowned Christ, he faced his own guilt, wept bitterly and prayed for forgiveness... his shortcomings were not the end of his mission, but the beginning! Being present at these events and spoken to Peter at length after the resurrection John would have been aware of what Peter went through and about what had happened.

Rather than focus wholly on the Gospel, reflect on the first reading in which we are called to be not only servants but also lights. The world needs to see our lights, which is the gift Jesus gave us in baptism; chosen to be lights of hope in a struggling world. Without our lights many will lose their way and their lives in an overpowering sense of hopelessness. Journey with Christ, join him in the times when his hope was greatly threatened and he will help you keep your light of hope alive which, after all, is his light.