

Reflection

In moments of insecurity and of confusion, in moments of darkness and loneliness, in moments of unworthiness and guilt, in *this* time of isolation, God comes ever closer to us. His presence always communicates to us his personal love for each one of us. This time is a call to silence, to a deep listening to the whisper, the “still, small voice of calm”, that gently opens up to us who we truly are.

Times of crisis are a sacred time, they are a *kairos*, when God’s human compassion and love are nurturing us to change; a time when God’s love is masterfully but delicately changing “our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh”. Silence, then, allows us to be sensitive also to the **action** of God in our deepest being.

A parishioner recently shared a quotation with a group of us:

“There is something about being alone that is the core of Christian life. A person cannot truly come to know the Father by constant activity; rather, real Christian action, real love for others, springs from hearing the voice of God in times of rest and quietness. The life of Jesus bears this out, for His power to do good among men was derived from the time he spent alone, in the desert or on a mountain, in prayer before God.”

This quotation can fruitfully be applied to our current situation, giving us great hope for whatever is to come. Deprived briefly of sacramental community celebration, we are thrown back on our own experience of God, and are confronted with our actual relationship with Jesus Christ in day to day living. This is the very foundation on which our faith is built, and it is what determines the richness of our liturgical experience.

If in stillness, we come to a deeper knowledge of who we are created to be, and we allow ourselves to be changed by that loving stillness of belonging, then when we will return to celebrate our Sunday Eucharist not as “back to normal”, but with a new healing, an empowering vigour, and an unexpected awareness and experience of the depth of our communion in Christ.

Let us see where the Holy Spirit will lead us in the next few weeks. All we can be sure of is that it will be good.