

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET
ISAIAH

Thus says the LORD:

‘Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance.’

For thus says the LORD: Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip and bounced upon her knees.

As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass; and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!'

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

'Before you all the earth shall bow down,

shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God:

his wondrous deeds among the children of Adam.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

He turned the sea into dry land;

they passed through the river on foot.

Let our joy, then, be in him;

he rules for ever by his might.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Come and hear, all who fear God;

I will tell what he did for my soul.

Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,

nor withhold from me his merciful love. *Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.*

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

Brothers and Sisters:

Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters.

Amen.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING
TO LUKE

At that time: The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.

Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no money bag, no rucksack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road.

Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace be to this house!”

And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him.

But if not, it will return to you.

And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages.

Do not go from house to house.

Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.”

But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, “Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you.

Nevertheless, know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.” I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.’

THE REFLECTION

Last year on a visit to Cracow I tried to explain that a Catholic on pilgrimage to Lourdes would not be disappointed if they were not cured of their illness as much as recognising a healing process taking place, becoming more aware of God's love brought and demonstrated in the gentle care of the team of people who have come to help. Jesus tells his disciples to heal the sick, bringing a sense of reconciliation that they were always precious in God's eyes. A healing which might help them rebuild a sense of self worth in their lives. A shared process of the message of God's love for them and reconciliation among their community would bring a greater value and respect for their lives.

A line of the Bible should not be taken to mean something more Expressive than it says. I used to teach a full and popular class on marriage, sexuality and social justice. There were long discussions about what happened or didn't at Sodom.

The best way to understand the bible is to read how others use the same word. For Jesus in today's gospel, it is the sin of a lack of hospitality-a real failing for anyone, Jesus was welcomed by the two he met on the road to Emmaus. The people of Sodom wanted to be aggressive to the guests of Lot, the brother of Abraham and paid for it by the destruction of their city.

The Catholic Church has changed its attitude to people attracted to others of the same sex, treating them with respect although their sexual actions are not the proper use of their gender.

All people are to be respected from their earliest moments to a natural death, a 'seamless garment in the words of Cardinal Bernadin of Chicago in 1984. We show our respect for people hearing the end of their lives by our support for St Raphael's hospice for example. Jesus encourages us as he encouraged his disciple to go and live and speak his message -summed up by Pope Francis defining Evangelisation as living the beatitudes and when someone asks you why then tell them about your faith, especially if they listen to you

politely giving you the gift of their time and attention, in itself a form of hospitality.