

## Holy Week Reflections - Monday

1 Peter 3:15: *'In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...'*

### Reflection

Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin in the Fields, writes: *'The cross is, for many, a question rather than an answer today. About our existence, God and us. It is something that marks Christians out as an oddity; which is really difficult to explain or understand.'*

Especially when, for many of us, we have found a deeper understanding of existence in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. We have found a home and belonging in a church community too.

He goes on to write: *'The cross, like the best questions, makes us pause and think before answering. It doesn't invite us to dodge tough questions of suffering, doubt, and evil as if it is all part of a plan. Instead, the cross calls us right to the bottom, knowing that the resurrection (though predicted) would lose its power if anyone had seen it coming.'*

I mentioned in my sermon on Sunday that this Holy Week many of us are without the traditions that form our usual reflections. I would suggest that it is still a time to read, think, and pray when you can – and connect with the Jesus each of you has experienced this week. It is a time to challenge our own practices, assumptions and attitudes. It is a time to consider what we will bring back to church when we open again, and how we use the resources we have to serve the people around us.

In this week, I invite you to recall your own journey so that we may bring any fruit of our questioning back when we meet again. By not rushing to the Resurrection, the journey through the cross allows us time to explore the deep questions and direct our efforts.

Through the richness of our own reflection and journeys with Jesus, may we find a meaning on the other side of the cross. May it make us, above all, a more compassionate, understanding, and deep people.

*Help me today to realise that you will be speaking to me through the events of the day, through people, through things, and through creation.*

*Give me ears, eyes and heart to perceive you, however veiled your presence may be.*

*Give me insight to see through the exterior of things to the interior truth.*

*Give me your spirit of discernment.*

*O Lord, you know how busy I must be this day, if I forget you, do not forget me.*

(Jacob Astley, 1579-1652)

### Action

Take a match and light it or set a timer on your phone for 30 seconds. Pause and remember how your faith began, and how you ended up where you are.

What has been the best thing about your faith for you? How has it helped shape your life and actions?

Light the match or press start, and use. Put a new match somewhere to remind you (wallet, purse, by the remote control) or find a picture to put as your screensaver today that will remind you of this.