

Tuesday in Holy Week

This Homily is based on today's gospel reading: John 12: 20-36

As Holy Week continues, we find the tension in John's Gospel mounting up as Jesus comes to Jerusalem and approaches his death.

And in the midst of this, we find mission is still going on. Some Greeks come to Philip and say *'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.'* Then Philip finds Andrew and they both go to Jesus. That is surely what we have also been seeing and hearing in the last fortnight as we have all been reaching out to one another to share and to encourage.

In reply, Jesus talks about his coming death and says:

'...unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit'

At this time of year, with all nature's new shoots, we can certainly see the truth of that. Similarly, during his ministry on earth, Jesus could only be in one place at one point of time, but with his death and resurrection and ascension, he can, and is, here for all of us, all the time.

I wonder, does this dying and rising again also happen for all of us in our lives of faith? Sometimes some things have to stop in order for new things to begin.

Later on in our reading, we hear Jesus say:

'Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me the Father will honour.'

In our serving, we are called to follow Jesus and be where he would be. The Gospels show us that Jesus spent time alone in prayer. He talked and ate with people nobody else liked. He touched and healed people who were outcast and despised. He forgave his enemies. He gave up power to empower others. He confronted the religious leaders. He reached out and showed respect to the Samaritan woman at the well. He said that we should be like little children.

At this time, although we cannot physically be where Jesus would be, we can still continue to do what he would do through prayer and our different ways of communicating. We have, too, his assuring words about his forthcoming death on the Cross to share:

'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.'

Lastly, in this reading, Jesus says:

'While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.'

As people of light let's continue to walk in his light and reflect that to others.

May God bless you all with his light and his love. Amen.