

GOING FORWARD TOGETHER ...

Second Sunday of Lent 2022

FROM THE READINGS

The Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can.

Such will be your descendants,' he told Abram ...' *Genesis 15:5-6*

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;

have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face'. *Psalms 26/27:7-8*

So then, my brothers, sisters and dear friends,

do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord.

I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown. *Philippians 3:20*

**Jesus took with him Peter and John and James
and went up the mountain to pray ...**

And a voice came from the cloud saying,

'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. *Luke 9:28, 35*

FROM FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Please remember,

next time you are standing
quietly looking into the night sky,
that beyond those stars is a reality
quite beyond our understanding.

And corresponding to that mystery,
at the centre of your own heart,
is the longing for an absolute good.

A longing that is always there,
never to be satisfied by any object in this world.

Simone Weil, quoted in Heroes of the Faith, 273

It is a glorious destiny to be a member of the human race,

though it is a race dedicated to many absurdities and one which makes many terrible mistakes: yet, with all that, God Himself glorified in becoming a member of the human race ... And if only everybody could realise this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.

Thomas Merton, quoted in Heroes of the Faith, 294

Christ is found not in loud and pompous declarations but in humble and fraternal dialogue.

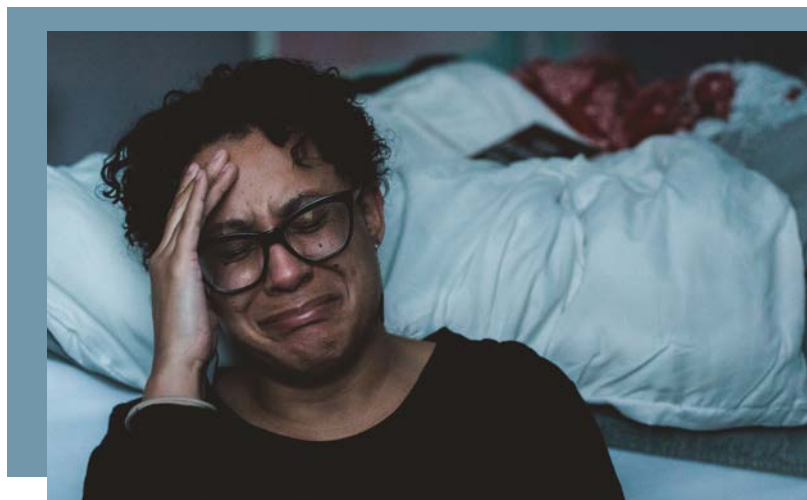
He is found less in a truth that is imposed than in a truth that is shared....

Thomas Merton, 'A Letter to Pablo Cuadra Concerning Giants' in *Bridges to Contemplative Living*, Seven, 31

This is the moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities

– what we value, what we want, what we seek – and to commit to acting in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. What I hear at this moment is similar to what Isaiah hears God saying through him: Come, let us talk this over. Let us dare to dream. God asks us to dare to create something new.

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*, 6



A time of trial is always a time of distinguishing the paths of the good that lead to the future from other paths that lead nowhere or backwards. With clarity, we can better choose the first.

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*, 51

Most of all, we need prayer,

to hear the prompts of the Spirit and cultivate dialogue in a community that can hold us and allow us to dream. Thus armed we can read right the signs of the times and opt for a way that does us all good.

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*, 51

FOR THINKING AND PRAYING

- What words or phrases stand out for you in these readings and insights of 'fellow travellers'?
- What insights might you take with you on your own journey?

PRAYER

**God of eternity, creator of time,
giver of life and love,
rescue us from those pressures
which throw us off balance.**

**If today we have been in too much of a hurry
to realise that it is good to be alive:
*Lord, have mercy.***

**If we live too close to the news headlines,
and not close enough to the eternal verities:
*Christ, have mercy.***

**If we become so worried
that we forget that your grace is sufficient for us:
*Lord, have mercy.***

**Timeless God, steadfast in love,
generous and patient with all your creatures:
*let the peace of our Lord, Jesus the Christ,
Garrison our lives this day.***

Bruce Prewer, 'Hurry and Worry' in *Australian Prayers*, 91