

Tuesday reflection, 1st March 2022

St David's Day, the first day of Meteorological Spring and, coincidentally, Shrove Tuesday, so a day of leeks, daffodils and pancakes.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells his disciples that "You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14), mirroring what He says about Himself in St John's Gospel "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). It is clear from this that we are called to emulate Christ and follow His example.

But what kind of light is it that we are called to be?

As I see it, light has two functions: to mark the way and secondly to reveal what is hidden, as when we say something "comes to light" or when we "cast light" on something.

Both of these functions are relevant for us as Christians. By our lives we are called to 'shine out' to 'show the way' by following Christ. We are also called to 'throw light' on the affairs of the world, to 'speak truth to power' by drawing attention to the injustices of this world.

But what is the source of this light? It is Jesus, it is God, who above all are Love. Light is inextricably linked with fire, as witnessed by the disciples on the road to Emmaus - "were our hearts not burning within us ... while He was explaining (i.e. illuminating) the Scriptures to us (Luke 24:32), and Love is the fire that never goes out - as the *Jerusalem Bible* translation of the Song of Songs puts it: "Love is stronger than death. . . . The flash of love is a flash of fire, a flame of YHWH" (Song of Songs 8:6)

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