

## Reflection for Saturday 30 January

The readings in this morning's Mass are about faith. With the dreadful news this week that deaths from Covid-19 have now reached the 100000 mark, makes us ask where is God in all this? And what is God doing about it?

The answer is that we don't know. We have to trust God that he will make it all clear to us in heaven. In this pandemic we see signs of God's goodness in the acts of kindness that people have shown towards others - supplying food to those in need, raising money to help those in the NHS them in their work in caring for the sick and many more examples.

So we may ask in the light of all this, what is faith? In our first reading from the Letter to the Hebrews the author asks the same question. He sees faith as being the way God makes real to people what is in his mind. The writer then goes on to give examples from the Old Testament. By faith Abraham obeyed God's call to go out to a country as an inheritance for him and his descendants. That country was Canaan. The author of Hebrews describes Abraham's call from God in such a way that he set out on his journey with God's call resounding in his ears. Abraham's love of God made him trust that God wanted the best for him, hence his setting out on a journey into the unknown. It would not be easy for him, there would be setbacks And God would test Abraham's faith by the sacrifice of his son Isaac. Abraham obeyed God and Isaac was saved. Such was Abraham's faith. God's promise was fulfilled; Canaan, later to be called Israel, was to be the home of his chosen people. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews also gives examples of faith from the actions of others in the Old Testament.

In our second reading from St Mark's Gospel in which Jesus calms the storm on the Sea of Galilee, we see the disciples panicking because the storm was so bad that the boat could capsize any moment. Jesus was asleep in the stern of the boat. He was awakened by the disciples and calmed the storm. Jesus assured them that he would not have let them drown and accuses them of lack of faith. The disciples had seen in the past how Jesus had healed people of various illnesses and conditions but somehow that experience of how Jesus works did not give them sufficient faith in him to get them out of their present predicament.

Getting back to our situation our faith in God can grow from the experience we have had of God bringing about good in our lives when things have been difficult for us. The way forward for us when we doubt God, is to look back to previous experiences in life and seen how God has brought us out of them and say God can do the same again for us. In unexpected tragedies all we can do is to hold on and trust that God will bring us through them.