

**Meditation for the
13th and 14th March 2021**

4th Sunday of Lent

Gospel according to John 2:14-21

“God so loved the world,” says Jesus in a night-time meeting with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a Jewish leader. In his explanation Jesus talks about the experience of the Hebrews in the desert (Numbers 21: 6-9). To be saved, those people bitten by snakes had to look at a bronze serpent raised up by Moses on a pole. For the Hebrews and for Jesus’ contemporaries, and for us too today, everything comes down to belief: belief that God wants to give us life, and give us eternal life! That comes down to believing in Jesus offering us life while he himself is raised up on the wooden cross. But how can we understand this act of giving his life out of love? We can find many examples around us of people giving their lives out of love: a mother or a father who gets up at night to care for their sick child; or a person faithfully going to visit their parent who is no longer capable of recognizing them... What if this “eternal life” was precisely that: the weight of offered love, which takes root in our lives forever, giving them their own colour and depth?

Giving love – receiving love. Take the time to spot those signs of love that have been given to you and that have the taste of “eternity”...



“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him will not be lost, but will have eternal life” Not getting lost. Living as someone baptised is not like taking a straight highway where all you have to do is follow the signs to get to the right place. We don’t have a predetermined route to tasting the fullness of life, but we do have a guide in Christ. If we try to place our footsteps in his, in coming close to his word, we can make the journey with truth and freedom. We can even risk getting lost, because we know that we will always be able to come back to him, our Father who loves us unconditionally!

Being lost – being loved. Look at the world as the Father does: with unconditional love. What happens in you when you do this?

I am sometimes lost and sometimes found and loved. Take the time to recognize the way your journey twists and turns...

In the next verses we find the question of judgement: “God sent his Son, not to judge the world, but so that, by him, the world might be saved.” Here the word freely sweeps away centuries of moralizing theology! Will we be able to believe that God comes to save all human beings without grinding them down with judgement and condemnation? Judgement for the world and for every one of us, says Jesus, is to be found in the alternance of light and darkness, of inner and outer feelings that we know well. It is like that experience of feeling lost, being in the dark, and finding the way again, seeing the light... This is the Good News: no matter where we find ourselves in life, we are not condemned to suffer the darkness. A little bit later Jesus will say: “I am the Light of the World. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8: 12)

Being saved – choosing the light. What has God already saved you from? What does God still want to save you from?

What are your places of darkness and your places of light? Speak of them to God, so that the truth of your whole life comes to the light of his Love.

Sr Anne Peyremorte

«If you knew the Gift of God!»

Taking the Word of God we have just meditated on, what gift of God have you received for the coming week?

- Giving – receiving life
- Being lost – being loved
- Being saved
- Choosing light
- Other:

How do I want to reply to this gift?

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