

PBS MASS. THIRD AFTER EASTER 2020.

I think it was the great Spiritual writer, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, St Francis De sales, who wrote that he only ever had one mystical encounter with Christ in his entire life, and while he longed for more, that one encounter was enough to carry him through to the end. There is something in that piece of personal biography that echoes with Our Lords words to his disciples; "A little while and ye shall not see me: and again a little while and ye shall see me."

Take time to reflect on the path of your own faith journey up to this point, and i suspect we can all say that the words of Jesus and the experience of St Francis De Sales resonate with our own interior relationship with the Divine. We travel this earthly life occasionally having just the mere glimpse of God. Are we any different from those first disciples of Jesus? Or even those who knew him the longest? Think about the Scriptures; we see God firstly in the Babe at Bethlehem. We next glimpse him at the age of 12 in the Temple and then as an adult as he embarks on his mission. Right throughout scripture we catch glimpses of God at work, making himself known.

When we reflect on our own spiritual journey, do we experience Christ with us in a special way at key moments and then not with us for what can seem like a long time? Maybe at our baptism's, confirmation's, first communion's, we glimpse Christ. Or in a profound moment of prayer, or even during a time of suffering and pain. And then, nothing; then there are long periods of darkness or emptiness. We may when tempted, see a glimpse of Jesus during His temptations, or when in pain see a glimpse of Jesus in His pain, when having sinned glimpsed Jesus in words of forgiveness. But they are always glimpses. In a while ye shall see not see me and in a while ye shall see me.

We must allow for those desert experiences in our growth along the road of Holiness. One can only imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus turned to them as he grew closer to his death and said, "It is expedient for you that i must go away." But we know that throughout those forty days of his resurrection appearances they had meaningful glimpses that sustained them, until finally the glimpses past and they were indwelt with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. May the spirit of God who indwells us all fill our lives with the joy of his presence; a joy that no one can take from us. AMEN

