

***The truth will set you free*** (John 8.32)

The truth will make you free, Jesus says, but not before it makes you uncomfortable. We believe that Jesus is the Truth, so our freedom can only come about by aligning our lives to His Way, his vision. We place ourselves humbly before Him, acknowledging what I need to be more honest about, what ego drives still hold me back from becoming who I am meant to be. *"I tell you most solemnly, everyone who commits sin is a slave"* Jesus says in today's gospel. The truth is that only a life ordered to God breaks the chains that limit our freedom as children of the one Father. The Lenten desert journey is about allowing Christ to discomfort us over any areas of our lives where we see we are still in the driving seat. Self-examination before the One who wants the best for you is the daily pursuit of those who seek holiness. Honesty comes of looking into Christ's eyes on the cross, letting that ever present sacrifice melt you, and deciding to let go again and again of all that so temptingly pulls you away from His gaze. *"I can do what I like with my life"* is some people's idea of freedom, but that often translates into *I can do what sin likes*....and a pattern of life that leaves the soul frustrated, devoid of the peace it craves and that the Lord alone offers. God hates sin because it robs us of the joy He so desires for each human created.

We may think that God is very concerned about the virus which is having such a devastating effect in the lives of so many....and we'd be right to think so. Jesus weeps with the thousands of mourners across all continents. Of course, an all loving, caring God is concerned.....but within the framework of so many other ways in which the world is not as it should be. If the coronavirus were to disappear tomorrow, it would still leave a fallen world in deep need of change and spiritual renewal. Let's face it....the news was depressing even before all this came along. We are made for God, not for ourselves.

As we pray for all victims of this contagious sickness, let us also pray that when we emerge from it, as we will, a new consciousness begins to dawn on humanity....over our interdependence, our daily need of God's protective love, and the remedy of the humility to cede control of our lives to the Highest Wisdom.....and the Deepest Love.