



THINK ON THESE THINGS..... (our contributor this morning is Brian Eyles)

Reading: Matthew 6: 25-29

I tell you not to be worried about food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't the body worth more than clothes? Look at the birds: they do not sow seeds, gather a harvest and put it into barns: yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds? Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it? And why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers.

Reflection:

Jesus says 'Look at the birds', 'Look how the wild flowers grow'. He must have had plenty of time to notice and concentrate on the birds when he spent his long retreat in the desert places. He encourages his followers to pay attention to the world about them: to be aware of the smallest and most common things of nature.

In these Pandemic days we have an opportunity to follow his advice. The pace of life for most of us slows down or, we may feel, comes to a full stop. We have more time to notice things, different things. For example in the enforced idleness of waiting for buses in Thames Avenue I have appreciated a remarkable show of roses in someone's garden. Maybe you will have heard unfamiliar birdsong, or marvelled at the abundant harvest of blackberries this year.

Jesus promises to give us life, an abundant life, and these Pandemic days give us an opportunity to deepen and enrich our appreciation and understanding of things.

It seems to me that Jesus is saying don't take things for granted, take time to look carefully, listen attentively, smell sensitively, and watch patiently. Following Jesus' advice will lead to greater responsibility for our world, taking care with waste, watching our carbon footprint, and giving respect to all God's creatures.

Breath-Prayer:

Lord God forgive our part in the market driven world that needs to curb its appetites or climate change will bring extinction to all creatures great and small. Grant that we may care when we 'look at the birds,' and 'look how the wild flowers grow'.