

Wednesday 30 October

Rom 8:26-30, Ps 13:4-6, Lk 13:22-30

From Baptised and Sent

The violation of justice and human rights can close to us the door of the kingdom. The doorway is narrow, but it has not been closed yet. The door may yet be narrow, but since Christ himself is the door of the Father, the hope of being able to enter and be saved becomes stronger... Jesus' warning is therefore also addressed to the ecclesial community, so that it does not make the mistake of presuming the guarantee of election, rather than following Jesus on the path of faith, hope, love, and justice. The rule remains valid: even those who are far from home, the last ones, the marginalised, the sinners, those of different culture and religion can become, with the practice of love and justice, the guests of honour at the feast of the kingdom. (p. 191-192)

From Pope Francis

Of course Jesus' door is a narrow one but not because it is a torture chamber. No, not for that reason! Rather, because he asks us to open our hearts to him, to recognise that we are sinners in need of his salvation, his forgiveness and his love in order to have the humility to accept his mercy and to let ourselves be renewed by him. Jesus tells us in the Gospel that being Christians does not mean having a "label"! I ask you: are you Christians by label or by the truth? And let each one answer within him, or herself! Not Christians, never Christians by label! Christians in truth, Christians in the heart. Being Christian is living and witnessing to faith in prayer, in works of charity, in promoting justice, in doing good. The whole of our life must pass through the narrow door which is Christ.ⁱ

From the Good Samaritan Benedictine Story

I have been overcome with grief at times, and felt my heart like a stone in my breast, it was so heavy, and always I have heard too, that voice, "Pray". What can we do? We can pray without ceasing, as St Paul said... There is another bit of Scripture which stands out in my mind these days. It is this: 'Where sin abounds, there did grace more abound'. Resting in this promise, I am content.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Angelus, St. Peter's Square, Sunday, August 25, 2013

ⁱⁱ Dorothy Day, *Selected Writings*.