

Tuesday 22 October

Rom 5:12,15b, 17-19,20b-21, Ps 40:7-10,17, Lk 12:35-38

Optional Memorial of St John Paul II

From Baptised and Sent

From God's perspective, waiting responds to the law of love. For us who live, the long period of waiting only increases our desire to meet God face to face. We must be strong to bear the burden of holding to a promise with no deadline. It is important to be aware that all the seasons of a life well lived, seeking and doing God's will, are a *kairos*, a time favourable to being called home. Our being ready for this moment will make our lives successes. (p. 159)

From Pope Francis

Understanding God's superabundant love helps us also to understand Jesus' preferential love for sinners. They accused him of always keeping company with tax collectors and sinners and eating with tax collectors was scandalous, because sin abounded in their hearts. But Jesus went to them with the superabundance of his grace and love. Some of the saints say that one of the ugliest sins is the sin of diffidence, i.e. distrust of God. How can we distrust a God who is so close, so good, and who shows such preferential love for our hearts, sinners though we are? Such is the mystery:... But perhaps these three words will help us: contemplation, to contemplate this mystery; closeness, this mystery hidden for all ages in a God who is close and who draws near to us; and abundance, a God who always triumphs over sin through the superabundance of his grace and tenderness, through the richness of mercy.ⁱ

From the Good Samaritan Benedictine Story

The spiritual writer Thomas Merton once wrote about standing on a street corner and suddenly seeing everyone around him surrounded by a beautiful light. It filled him with unutterable peace, but at the same time a wish to tell everyone how shining and beautiful they were. This is what happens when we begin to see with the eyes of mercy.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Morning meditation in the Chapel of the *Domus Sanctae Marthae*. "Contemplation, closeness, abundance," Tuesday, October 22, 2013

ⁱⁱ *What Pope Francis says about mercy: 30 days of reflections and prayers #22*