

## **Prophetic voice**

Our Lord Jesus Christ walks with you

St John the Baptist will have seemed to have been an outrageous figure. He certainly had charisma. But he was considered to be a trouble maker. Eventually leading to his death in an attempt to crush his message.

St John the Baptist was a prophetic voice. But the prophetic voice is always uncomfortable. It disturbs the most determined attempts at ignoring the truth. The prophetic voice asks questions. It does not provide the answers.

Even so Our Lord Jesus Christ walks with you. Through good and bad. Through anxious and calm. Our Lord Jesus Christ walks with you.

At the moment I am consciously attempting to slow down my life style. My Peter Pan existence must change if I am to serve for the next 10 years before my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The prophetic voice speaks so loudly as I grow tired and anxious. As the guilt developed over 40 years calls me into the irrational.

Into attempts to do the impossible. In order to continue to give I must learn to say no. Or the arrogance that insists that I am the only one who can do it will stop me.

This voice is uncomfortable. It does not provide answers. But speaks so loudly.

Thus I must attempt, and Our Lord Jesus Christ walks with me

As community breaks down in our society. As pubs close because now people celebrate comfort and packaged alcohol at home. As commitment is no longer standard, and even a golf club is difficult to run because of lack of numbers.

So then the dependence upon the internal family increases. Always an important part of the life of the Church.

But even here in this sacred domain the prophetic voice speaks.

Priests in our tradition do not marry. Do not have children. The family of God bigger than that of the home.

So heard in experience when they fly the nest

Seen in the tensions of the internal family that cannot cope with the smothering claustrophobic atmosphere created by the impulse to contain.

Here the Prophetic voice calls to let go of the children. To let go of aspirations past. To let go even of life itself.

The prophetic voice speaks, questions, but does not provide the answers.

Even so in the midst of it all Our Lord Jesus Christ walks with you. Through good and bad. Through anxious and calm. Our Lord Jesus Christ walks with you.

Then there is the messy and unresolved world of politics. As Roman Catholics our world is wider than self. Wider than family. Our Church calls us to participate and make the voice of Christ evident when the decisions are made.

To complain may simply be the means of avoiding responsibility.

To accept helplessness may just be to avoid the challenge

To isolate quite simply a denial of faith.

We proclaim Our Father in the international family of faith

We announce we believe in the many languages of the world.

Thus the prophetic voice again asks questions but does not provide the answer.

The prophetic voice will not allow the innocence of ignorance, but calls us out of complacent alignment.

The Prophetic voice disturbs

Even so in the midst of it all. Our Lord Jesus Christ walks with you. Through good and bad. Through anxious or calm. Our Lord Jesus Christ walks with you

Within your own heart the pilgrimage of life will regularly call you with the prophetic voice to

Re-access

Within your internal family. Elements you cannot control will raise with prophetic honesty things you may have tried to ignore.

Within the politics of this country. This world. The prophetic voice will call out for your contribution.

A voice that asks questions but does not answer them.

A voice that brings uncertainty and potential growth.

A voice that speaks to the adult in you.

But through all this Our Lord Jesus Christ walks with you. Through good and bad he walks with you. Through anxious or calm he walks with you

Have faith and be prepared to listen

Have faith and be prepared to listen.