

## Sunday Message from Fr William for Fifth Sunday of Lent 2024

*The 'Other World' continued from 10.03.24*

Yes you're on a journey of ongoing spiritualisation throughout your days in this world. This is the Spirit being breathed into you through the limitless ways of the Spirit. This is us being created. Each of us is a work in progress. You are on a journey of becoming more and more truly, more and more completely yourself. It's a journey that culminates in the 'other world' with a 'new spiritualisation of the body' spoken of by Karol Wojtyła (see 25.02.2024). And the more truly you become yourself the more truly you become free, until in the 'other world' we attain to that glorious freedom of the children of God that Paul speaks of in his letter to the Romans. (*Romans 8.21*). Freedom in that final state will mean a constant and unwavering choice, a choice that is made by you in your totality, a choice made from the height and depth of your being and from every fibre of your existence. And in the 'other world' that choice, made in potentially limitless freedom, will be the choice of love.

So that will be the next topic! Love. What does love mean in this world? What does Love mean in the 'other world'? But first two final words about human freedom.

Remember that we are created to be, in a way beyond our comprehension, joined to Christ. He is the 'vine', we are the 'branches'. He is the 'head', we are his 'body'. This sounds at first like it might be a constraint on your personal freedom. I can assure you that being joined to Christ we experience no constraint on our personal freedom. On the contrary it gives us freedom. Being joined to the eternal Son is part of the plan, part of the Creator's design for humanity. Being joined to the Son is another vital aspect of becoming truly who you are meant to be. And only by becoming truly who you are meant to be can you attain true freedom, a freedom that arises from your true self, with a capacity to choose from the height and depth of your true self. Moreover, being joined to the Son gives another account of how we are filled with the Spirit, because it is his Spirit. And as I've tried to demonstrate, our personal freedom is ever increased by our ongoing spiritualisation, a spiritualisation that is the work of the Spirit.

And now return to those twin dynamics of the 'other world' that were the starting point for these reflections: Infinite Freedom and infinite Love. This is the life of the Trinity – Father, Son and Spirit. This is their life in the 'other world', or to be more precise, the life *that is* the 'other world'. (See 20.08.2023). The Son is 'sent by the Father', the primary dynamic of the 'other world', a dynamic that is infinite and ongoing. The analogy I gave was the creation of a new human being. As an embryo there is an organic oneness between mother and child. From this point onwards there is an ongoing separation from and differentiation from his mother, increasingly established in his own autonomy, his own subjectivity, his own agency. All this is what it means to grow in personal freedom as a human being. Now remember that this human freedom is also a finite reflection in this world of the Son's infinite Freedom of the 'other world', his infinite coming forth from the Father. The conclusion is staggering. Not only does each human being attain to the fullness of his own personal freedom in the 'other world' by a new and final spiritualisation of the body, but he is at the same time also caught up, as part of the Body of Christ, in the Son's infinite Freedom, that primary dynamic of the 'other world'.

*to be continued...*

*William*

17 march 2024