



SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

The Parishes of: Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

5th Sunday of Easter (A): John 14: 1-12

Language changes. It sometimes changes a lot. The story goes that Sir Christopher Wren showed the King round St Paul's Cathedral in London during its construction. At the end of the tour the King is reputed to have described the Cathedral as 'amusing, awful and artificial'. Wren was delighted! At that time, in the 1600's, amusing meant amazing, awful meant awe-inspiring and if you used the word artificial, it was artistic.

The Bible keeps on being translated by scholars- usually groups of scholars - in attempts to express the original received texts in the language we use today. Some folks will stick to the very dignified words of the King James Bible first published in 1611. Others will find it's vocabulary and style now unhelpful.

The Gospels were written in Greek. They've been translated into over 2000 languages. Finding words to capture what the original writers wished to convey to us is a detailed, scrupulous and prayerful exercise. We recognise that some things are beyond words, but making the Word of God available in every age has to be attempted with the thoroughness and skill such an important task demands.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus is talking to his Apostles at the Last Supper - the night before he died. It's heartfelt stuff. He talks of going to prepare rooms for each of them so they'll always be with him. Separation is out of the question. The love he has for them is the love God the Father has for them because when you've met Jesus, you've met the Father too.

The Gospel words seek to describe a love so deep that one is also the other, yet distinct. It challenges our understanding of presence and at the same time asks us to tune in to our deepest experience of love where being together can be a bond undiminished by distance. We've all met longstanding couples who can almost complete each other's sentences and even seem to end up looking like one another!

We've been drawn into the life of God. He wants to share his home and his life of love with us. This is not future stuff it's more now than we dare believe. A great priest, philosopher and an expert in other fields, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, reminded us that we're not human beings with a spiritual life but spiritual beings enjoying a full human existence. It's not on your passport, but that's your identity. You better believe it!



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

Beginning Again

Enter into the quiet
that threshold of stillness.
In this very moment.
Take your time with eternity.

Breathe it in
Feel the quickening
The awakening
of life
coursing through your being.

In this very place
Be.

Just be,
With your whole heart
and being
deep in heaven



Learning afresh to dwell.
Herein lies our restoration
and rest in God.
It is new every morning
like fresh manna
We taste and see

Can you sense it

Now is your time
to be

<https://contemplativemonk.com/category/poems/>