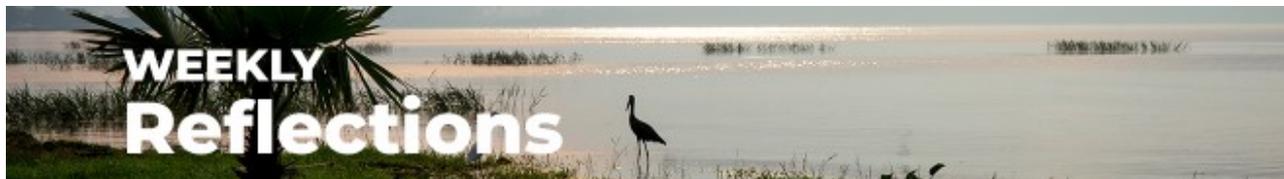


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Based on the gospel for 16 May, Seventh Sunday of Easter: John 17:11-19

“Holy Father, protect them... so that they may be one, as we are one... I have sent them into the world.”

As he shares his Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus prays for them – and for us, for me! He asks his Father to give his disciples the gifts of joy, protection, and holiness.

I think of my life, my family, my neighbourhood, and ask myself where I might need the use of such gifts.

Jesus also prays “may they be one”. Do I have a sense of God in me or other people? For God is already in the world into which I am sent by Jesus to continue his mission.

Friendship with Jesus means being with him and being sent in his name. My mission as his follower is amid the difficulties of the world. As it was for him, so it is for me.

And what about when I am discriminated against, misunderstood, overlooked for following Jesus? I am called, even here, to a deep and personal commitment; to solidarity even though I may be receiving rejection in return.

Though I may not know my mission fully, I trust in the Lord’s prayer for me that I am both sanctified and sent by him.

Lord, do not take me out of the world, but protect me with your word. Just as you entered the world and took onto yourself all the risks it involved, I know you now send me to it, with all its messiness, to be your face of love in every situation. Amen.

Coronavirus: Our global response*

480,500

people reached with sanitation
and hygiene supplies



*as of April 2021

Coronavirus response

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This reflection and prayer were written by Ged Johnson, spiritual director at St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in North Wales.



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CAFOD

Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road,
London,
SE1 7JB,