

Easter 6 B

*Malcolm Muggeridge and a TV crew were making a documentary on Mother Teresa. They wanted to film her and her sisters in the actual place where they worked with the dying. They had a problem. It was quite dark and there was insufficient light for filming. They had no proper artificial light either but they decided to proceed anyhow, dark and all as it was. To their surprise the film turned out beautiful and the light just perfect. It was a sort of **mysterious warm glow** that was surprisingly bright. Muggeridge, who was not a Christian at the time, was absolutely convinced that the light came from the love emanating from Mother Teresa and her co-workers in the home.*

Remember the story in the gospel when Mary Magdalene washed and anointed the feet of Jesus in the house of Simon the Pharisee. The scriptures tell us that 'the whole room was filled with the scent of the anointment'. If we love Jesus like Mary did, the scent of the love emanating from us is sure to be picked up by others as well.

The love of God brings light and warmth into every situation if we want it. Just like the Sun's rays warm the earth so the light of God's love continually warms our cold hearts, if we let it. We can always shield ourselves from the Sun and live in a house where the curtains are forever drawn. Instead of receding into the darkness, Jesus wants us always to 'remain in his love' and not allow any darkness to overshadow our lives or any dark power to deceive us into thinking that God doesn't care about us or that He's just a figment of our imagination.

The only way we remain in the light of His love is by **keeping his commandments**, but He does not withdraw his love from us even when we let Him down, just like the Sun does not cease to shine when the sky becomes cloudy. We may distance ourselves from God but He doesn't withdraw from us.

Jesus laid down his life for us, **his friends**. We share what is in our hearts with a true friend. Staying in the sunshine of his love is another way of saying that **we hide nothing** from Him. What did Adam and Eve do when they sinned? They hid from God among the trees of the Garden of Eden because they couldn't face Him. When people say they don't believe in God, it may they're trying to blank things from their conscience – things deep down they know are wrong. They're not open with God. But Jesus hides nothing from us. He says: 'I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.' He's an open book.

The Sun sometimes disappears behind the clouds. So it may sometimes appear that God has lost interest in us and is not responding to our prayers. But, for the person who surrenders every aspect of their lives to Jesus, all their prayers are answered but maybe not in the way they had first envisioned. Jesus can do great things for us and with us if we stay close to Him.