

Reflection 6 May 2017, John 6:60-69

What brings each of us to this moment in time?

Chances are there was an invitation somewhere in the process - not just in regard to this pilgrimage but perhaps more broadly in terms of your life's purpose?

This invitation is not dissimilar to invitations put to Peter (and we were there where this occurred), Mary (my soul glorifies the Lord), Joseph, Marcellin..... ourselves?

And what was our response? Was it like Peter's? Peter dives in to affirm, exalt and proclaim Jesus as Lord - as Peter does! (and you can check the Johannine technique as to how many times he does this as it matches something else you know of!)

However, Peter's ministry is explicitly based and motivated by Jesus. It is in the name of Jesus as is Marcellin's. Are we as explicit as Peter and Marcellin?

Br Emili in his Lavalla letter cites the story of Job in regard to what we know of God is not what we have learnt from others but because we have experienced it. This pilgrimage has provided us with this; for example, when we arrived in Israel we visited the Jabbok River plain where Jacob wrestled God. 'God is in this place and I never knew it!'

A prerequisite for this invitation is an openness to God. Are we open to this invitation? We need to be if we are to be in relationship with our God. 'If we don't grow we wither' St Teresa.

Pope Francis in his letter to Br Emili acknowledging the Bicentenary mentions gratitude as the primary emotion of the heart. We, as pilgrims, have much to be grateful for.

So, in conclusion, and at the invitation of Jesus to be like children, and in keeping with Marist simplicity, let's refer to A A Milne:

Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude.