

7th April 2020

Seeds

**“If you can look into the seeds of time,
And say which grain will grow and which will not,
Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear
Your favours or your hate.”**

Shakespeare, Macbeth

I've never been a great gardener, but I do enjoy what others can produce. With green fingers, regular tending, relevant knowledge and loads of patience, so many good things are given to us to appreciate.

This current crisis has hit us hard in so many devastating ways, one of which is the closing of Garden Centres, and the destruction of millions of seedling plans which were ready for Spring and early Summer planting, with the inevitable loss of much vibrancy and colour.

But, in our sadness, give a thought to seeds and bulbs. Carefully protected, stored in the right conditions and looked after by clever, caring people, billions of them will, even now, be awaiting their time to grow. All their goodness will still be stored inside, ready to bring hope and promise when the time is right, ready to do what our snowdrops did a few weeks ago – despite this crisis – and bust back into colour and life.

On this Tuesday of Holy Week, we reflect in John 12 on Jesus talking about his Passion and using the metaphor of a seed having to fall in order that new life can come. We may not see much colour and life around us for a while. But keep having faith in the seeds. Keep trusting the life they contain. Keep believing that hope and colour *will* surround us once more. Keep waiting expectantly for your flowers to bloom.

A prayer for today

Living God, in the darkness of the earth, the seeds still wait to grow.

In the darkness of our world, there are always seeds of hope.

In the darkness of our souls, your Love is already planted.

In the darkness of our lives, you promise that flowers will bloom again. Amen.

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon

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