

Thursday 20 February

Today is Thursday the 20 February, in the Sixth Week of Ordinary Time.

One Hope Project sings, 'In Your Truth'.

Today's reading is from the Letter of James. James doesn't pull any punches in this passage. His words are strong, uncompromising, pointed. How did I notice myself reacting as I heard these words? Was I encouraged, or did I feel challenged, discomforted, prompted to question my own behaviour?

It makes you wonder what was going on in the Christian communities James knew, that he had to say things like this, so bluntly. Did they think, perhaps, that they could be Christians in a kind of 'contained', limited way, carrying on the rest of their lives as normal, without this faith having implications for the whole of their lives, for everything they do? Do I sometimes think that myself?

As the passage is read again, I listen to what James says about the poor and how God sees those who are poor. What feelings have these reflections stirred in me? Perhaps I see myself as one of the poor and feel encouraged; or perhaps I don't, and it's been a time for a bit of soul-searching.

Whatever my feelings, I bring them honestly and openly now before the God who loves me. I speak to God about what is in my heart.