



PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Little Flower,

It was Sir Winston Churchill who once commented that the farther backward one can look, the farther forward one can see. We now begin our journey together in (what we call in our liturgical calendar) the “Ordinary Time”. This reminds me of a tagline on a shirt given to a priest: Ordinary Time is far from ordinary. The time that is neither Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter is called Ordinary Time, which is a spiritual journey through the whole Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ, His dying and rising, our passing from darkness to light, from death to life - remembering God’s own journey with us on earth, His teachings, His healings and His proclamation of the good news of salvation. Ordinary Time is ordinal as it refers to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and so forth - a succession of life events, teachings, healings and parables of Our Lord.

As we continue our journey together, let us reflect on St John Paul II’s “Letter on Pilgrimage”: To go in a spirit of prayer from one place to another . . . helps us not only live our lives as a journey, but also gives us a vivid sense of a God who has gone before us and leads us on, who himself set out on man’s path, a God who does not look down on us from on high, but who has become our traveling companion.

I am blessed these days to have had the opportunity to visit with family in the UK; I have jokingly said that it was my time with My “Royal” family (remember my “imperfect, yet beautiful” family?). My prayers are with you even when I am physically away at the moment. Cheerio!

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino