

Deacon's Beacons

February 14, 2024

Is this the manner of fasting I would choose,
a day to afflict oneself?
To bow one's head like a reed,
and lie upon sackcloth and ashes?
Is this what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose:
releasing those bound unjustly,
untying the thongs of the yoke;
Setting free the oppressed,
breaking off every yoke?
Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry,
bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house;
Clothing the naked when you see them,
and not turning your back on your own flesh? Isaiah 58:5-7

Varying from the usual method of random generation, I chose this passage because I think it portrays a great vision of Lent. We can do a lot internally to improve our discipline and our relationship with God but we also need to turn our attention outward. If we spend time praying and ignore our neighbor in need, how just and acceptable are our prayers? Jesus did say to love and worship God but He also said to love one another. Without that vertical aspect, the horizontal relationship with God is unbalanced. Picture the Cross. The upright beam points to God but the cross beam encompasses all people. Remember that image.

Go raibh síocháin Chríost a bheith in éineacht leat.

Deacon Mike