

+WEEKLY REFLECTION

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Plug in!

John 14v15-21

'And I will give you another advocate to be with you forever' v16

In my past life, I was a headteacher in a primary school.

That job was a great joy and I have many happy memories of my time in schools. One of the features of a school is that the staff are usually fully occupied with children during lesson times and one of the only people who is 'free' is the headteacher.

This often leads to requests to solve problems in classrooms or around the school because you happen to be the only person available. On one morning, lessons had just started and I got a panicked message from a teacher saying that their whiteboard is not working and they need it for the lesson, could I help?

I dutifully attended the classroom and set about trying to help. I did all the usual things like check connections, but nothing worked. I then did what I should have started with, which was to check the socket!

Sure enough it had not been switched on. After a flick of the switch normal service was restored and the lesson set off in full swing much to the embarrassment of the staff member.

Today's gospel passage is the spiritual equivalent of plugging in. Jesus is speaking to his disciples and is trying to explain how he will leave them soon but that they will still be connected to him through the advocate that is the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promises to his disciples that they will not be alone (v18) and whilst they won't see him, he will be with them. In fact, his promise is more intertwined and intimate saying, 'I am in the Father, you in me and I in you'. What a promise!

As followers of Jesus we are intertwined with the Father and the Spirit. What are we required to do? Plug in! Love Jesus and keep his commandments. And what are the best ways to do this? Prayer and reading the Bible.

The regular daily connection with Jesus and the Father through prayer and scripture is our way to plug in and turn on the power and by the power of the Holy Spirit we are with Jesus as the disciples were in the passage today.

So if you are feeling a little distant from God or weighed down with the pressures and cares of the world ... PLUG IN!

Stephen Whittaker, Diocesan Secretary