**Reflection** for Easter 2018

Ancient Corinth was famed for its bronze mirrors.  They were highly polished and gave a good reflection. Today’s mirrors are far more sophisticated and we are used to the high degree of accuracy in the images of domestic mirrors and precision instruments. But how is an image produced? I recall from school physics that a light source is needed, and this must be reflected off an object and then the mirror in order for us to see its reflection. And then the image will be affected by the shape and place of the mirror together with the quality of the light. There are many possibilities.

In our worship calendar we have recently marked Passion Sunday – so called because as we move from Palm Sunday to Easter Day there is no Sunday when we focus on the crucifixion of Jesus, and it is good to spend some time at the cross as we contemplate the Easter story.

On Good Friday we join local Christians in a walk of witness through the town centre, led by someone carrying a symbolic cross. And during Holy Week are hosting a presentation entitled ‘Reflections of the Cross’ in which a variety of images of the cross will be displayed together with a selection of literature: poems, prose, hymns and prayers which may help us to reflect upon the meaning of the cross. I hope we will engage with this and allow these images and words of others to both affirm and inform what the cross might mean to us as we prepare to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus.  It might mean many different things, for as we look at the cross from different perspectives so new truths may be revealed, and in any case what we see now will only be a part of an infinite whole that will, one day, be more fully revealed to us. Writing to the young church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul acknowledges that the message of the cross can be interpreted in different ways (1 Cor 1:18) and later he refers to their local manufacturing industry when he speaks of the partial revelation of Christ in the Christian life: ‘now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we will see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known’ (1 Cor 13:12)

There is so much more that will be revealed as ‘we survey the wondrous cross, on which the prince of glory died’ and allow the light of Christ to reflect its deep truth back to us. So may this Easter be a time of reflection…

With blessings

Kevin