

Mar 2024

Dear Friend in Christ.

We are now in the month of Mar and by the end of Mar we would have gone through the whole of Lent as it ends on 28 Mar and we would have also started celebrating Easter.

During the Lenten season we would have started our conversion of mind, heart and life. Many would have done some form of fasting, prayer and alms giving and even some may even try to live a spiritual life intensely, live Lent more severely and more radically this year, perhaps undertaking a difficult fast or giving alms until it hurts for our faith.

Having gone through these holy times we would have deepened our awareness to hear the voice of God. Pope Francis in his homily for Mass on Ash Wednesday invited everyone to listen to the voice of the Lord calling us to *“go into your inner room”*, to *“return to your heart”*. Some of us may ask how do we dispose ourselves to hear.

First and foremost we must believe God does speak to us and in many ways including **through the Sunday readings**. Only we do not listen to His voice. We know in times of distress, it often seems more difficult to hear the sound of God, does it not?

Let's take references from Scripture:

Jn 10:27 *“My sheep hears my voice says the Lord, I know them, and they follow me”*.

Is 6:8 *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us? Here I am, I said, send me.”*

Ex 3:5 Moses heard God speaking from a burning bush *“Remove the sandals from your feet for the place on which you stand is holy ground”*.

1 Kgs 18: 9-13 *The word of the Lord came to Elijah: “What are you doing here, Elijah.” He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty....The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”*

We have also the account of St Faustina (Divine Mercy) heard Jesus in a vision so clearly that she would describe to an artist the picture He asked to be painted of Him. There are many other accounts in the Scripture .



Many may ask but what does God's voice sound like? The sound of God's voice might come in many ways - in that still, small speech Elijah heard, or it might come in a more dramatic form as it did when John baptised Jesus in the Jordan river, and in a voice from heaven said *“This is my Son in whom I am well pleased.”* Mt 3:17. The Bible also often

describes God's voice as mighty. Ezekiel heard God's voice as the sound of many waters

(Eze 43:2). Daniel described the sound of God's words as "the voice of a multitude" (Dan 10:6).

Remember also God's voice sometimes does not make a sound that we hear with our ears. Sometimes we perceive a flash of understanding without words. We just know that we know that God is speaking to us even though we cannot hear His voice. The inspiration surpasses our natural reasoning. It is a knowing in our person - in our spirit. Yes, we sometimes experience that God speaks through faint impressions telling us to do or say something. An urging or prompting in our spirit leads us. This is the Holy Spirit's work in us. Likewise, the sound of God's voice manifests **through wisdom and common sense**.

God's voice also often manifests **through dreams and visions**. God has been using dreams in visions to speak to His people since the book of Genesis. The most notable account in New Testament is St Joseph who heard the Lord in his dream. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said *"Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt and remain there....."*

God also speaks **through our circumstances**. At times, relationships fizzle, doors close, opportunities dry up. That could be God's way of showing us that transition is here, and it's time to move on.

And of course God speaks **through Scripture**. Often when we read God's Word and talk to Him about what it says, He will speak to us about our circumstances either directly or through the Scriptures.



So dear friends aren't we convinced that we too can hear since there's so many references. We may be surprised at how available God really is for us! Pope Francis in one of his interviews said He is always there. We are just not noticing Him. The problem therefore is how available are we and how good is our spiritual sensitivity to recognise His voice and His presence.

So, stay tune to listen to His voice. This is another form of encountering Him.

God bless!